March Comes in Like a Lion

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY UMINO CHIKA
PUBLISHED BY HAKUSENSHA (2011/07)
VOLUME 6 ISBN 978-4-592-14516-5

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Mitsuki chuuta ja like a lion
Cajun Umino

JETS COMICS

3月のライオン

羽海野チカ

6

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羽海野チカ

白泉社

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学校で友達をみれば、つかの。
いじめられっ子ひなた荘。
隣で、ひなたぼっこ。
恋してきて、必死だの。
元担任の林田先生。

「お前がどうしようもなくなったら、うずくまりなさい」
上京さんの「二海堂が封筒中に倒れたの」一報…
もとなり「二海堂が封筒中に倒れたの」一報…
零はいろんな思いを背負い、
新人戦の決勝に臨むため大阪に向かう。
彼女人間に何かを取り戻して
優しい物語です。

message

「著者一一ハ直私」

羽海野チカ

「たんたんは、ぬんちゃんで、
いつもまるのかわいい一日中くるくるしているので、
まるのせんとうはたぬきのでいです。
これからもぬんぱっくついっしんぬんちゃん
おとりたいと思ってます。
これからもまるのよろしくいです。」

ぬんぱ

ANIMAL
専門誌2~3号ごとに発行
Animal 嵐

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

3月のライオン 6 羽海野チカ

3月のライオン
March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino
6
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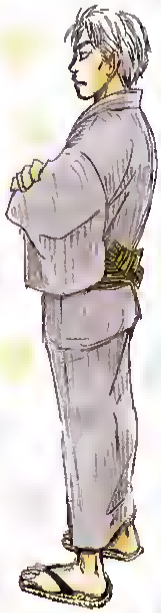

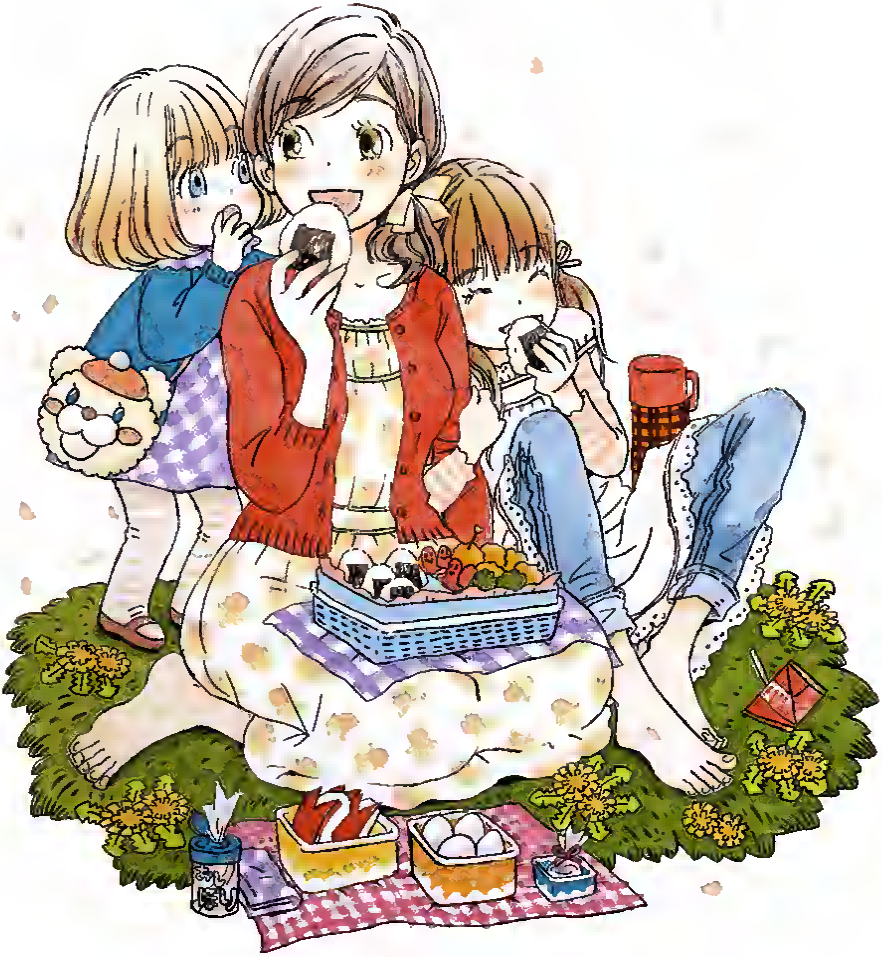

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

羽海野チカ
将棋監修●先崎学八段

6

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Chapter 54

Sentiment

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

my body pulsed as if it had become a heart in its entirety,
and it hurt so bad that it felt like it would tear me apart.
As she was grabbing my sleeve and crying,

So...
Think.
Think.
What should I do?
"That won't fix anything."
"It won't do a thing to help her."
I felt the urge
to immediately hunt down every last person who made her cry
and tear them all to pieces, but...
When we went back to the house...
I need to think.

The same Akari-san and Momo-chan as always,
with a dinner table full of warm food,
along with the stern-faced Ojii-chan, were waiting for us.
WELCOME BACK.
WE JUST GOT DINNER ON THE TABLE.
Hina-chan, Rei-chan, welcome back!
SFX NYAH
YOU WENT TO THE LIBRARY? WITH REI-CHAN?
AH, I SEE COME ON IN, TOO, REI-CHAN
I HEARD THE WHOLE STORY
FROM AKARI
There's still nothing on it nya
SFX SASU SASU
HEY.
HINA, PLEASE SIT DOWN.

EVERY TIME I HEAR ABOUT IT I FEEL JUST AWFUL FOR THEM
HOW NASTY BULLYING GETS NOWADAYS!!
EVEN JII-CHAN KNOWS FROM READIN' NEWSPAPERS 'N WATCHIN' THE NEWS ON TV

FRONT NEWSPAPER: 2ND YEAR MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRL COMMITS SUICIDE DUE TO BULLYING
ISOLATED IN THE CLASS
RIGHT NEWSPAPER: 5TH YEAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOY LEFT A NOTE AND JUMPED
TOP BACK: BULLYING CASES UP

YOU'RE AMAZING!
EVEN ADULTS COULD BARELY DO THINGS LIKE THAT!!
THAT WAS INCREDIBLY BRAVE!!
YA HELPED A FRIEND!! HOLD YOUR HEAD HIGH!!
YOU DIDN' DO A DANG THING WRONG!!
I'M PROUD TO CALL YOU MY GRAND-DAUGHTER!
M...
MHMM!
-O-
JII-CHA...

After that, we all ate dinner together.
Ojii-chan said,
"Thanks for finding Hina last night."
"Eat your fill!!", as he hit me on the back.
All the dishes Akari-san had made were Hina-chan's favourites.
There was karaage, potato salad, and cream stew.
She was crying the whole time,
but Hina-chan ate a lot, too.
I continued desperately to come up with something that I could do...
While I was chewing,

UM,
IT'S NOT FOR ME.
Why don't you tell Sensei all about it?!
What happened?!
Wh-What's wrong Kiriyama?!
Sensei will be your ally no matter what happens!!!
It's okayyy. Kiriyama!!!
A-
A PLAN TO COMBAT BULLYING?!
I'M "JUST NOT NOTICEABLE TO ANYONE", I GUESS?
I "JUST DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS"... OR RATHER...
I'M "JUST BEING IGNORED"
HEH?
AH
SFX: KIRIRIH
SFX: HAKI HAKI
SFX: KUPPAKI (FLATLY) SFX: KU
FIRST OF ALL, I'M
OF COURSE
NOT BEING BULLIED AT ALL
There's really nothing you wanna discuss?
Right now...?
R...
REALLY?
KIRIYAMAAA?!
A PRO?
...Uh. at what?
SFX: BISHIIH
I haven't been eating lunch by myself every day for 11 years just for show.
I'm a pro in that area.
Well, never mind me.
Flatly
SFX: KIRIRIH

I SEE...
A GIRL IN HER 3RD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.
HER FAMILY'S BEEN HELPING YOU OUT, HUH...
FIRST...
THAT GIRL WHO TRANSFERRED SCHOOLS...
IT IS A REAL PITY WHAT HAPPENED.
BUT,
TO BE HONEST...
IT WAS GOOD
THAT HINA-CHAN WAS THERE FOR THAT GIRL.
OTHER-WISE,
IT COULD'VE HAD A MUCH SADDER ENDING...
SO, ABOUT HINA-CHAN...
FIRST, IT'S A REALLY HUGE STEP FOR HER TO BE ABLE TO TALK TO HER FAMILY.
THE WORST THING YOU CAN DO IS NOT DISCUSS IT WITH ANYONE AND TRY TO CARRY THE WHOLE BURDEN YOURSELF.
NEITHER WITH THE PEOPLE AT HOME
NOR WITH TEACHERS.

BUT WITH HER FRIEND CHIHO-CHAN,
SHE TOLD HER HOMEROOM TEACHER ABOUT IT,
AND APPARENTLY SHE WAS IGNORED
THE TEACHER WAS LIKE, "ISN'T IT JUST A MISUNDER-STAND-ING?"
Augh, dammit. That's the type of homeroom teacher she's got?!
I feel so bad for her. She'd have had to muster up a lot of courage to try to talk about it
But there's nothing to misunder-stand there! You can't just turn the other way...
Aaah Geez
SO,
I THOUGHT I WOULD ASK YOUR OPINION AS SOMEONE WHO WORKS AT A SCHOOL, SENSEI
Sorry
Perhaps some ideas on how to deal with that sort of teacher
KIRI-YAMA,
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS
YAFOO
WHEN YOU SEARCH FOR "BULLYING", YOU GET 89.1 MILLION HITS
IF YOU SEARCH FOR "WAYS TO STOP BULLYING," YOU GET 2.2 MILLION HITS
AND,
NOWHERE IN THESE RESULTS
IS THERE A SINGLE METHOD THAT'LL WORK 100% OF THE TIME
SFX: KATCHA...

Se... Sensei...
Sensei?
In all the muddled discussion, Soma sparks have flown... But I mean, there are thousands of sites like this one.
Their teachers. Several years and 200 million scrolls later,
People who were bullied in the past. People who have bullied in the past.
Each side's parents. Bystanders.
People who are being bullied. People who are bullying.
Look! ☆
Why not take a look at this site?
Uhuhu
Ahahahaha
Hahahaha
SOS!
SFX: KACHI KACHI KACHI KACHI (CLICK CLICK) KURU KURU KURU KURU KURU KURU (SCROLLING)
PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENT POSITIONS, PERSONALITIES, AND DISPOSITIONS OF RELATIONSHIPS
THAT'S WHY THERE'S NO
PERFECT ANSWER THAT WILL WORK IN EVERY CASE.
People who want to apologize to the other person.
People who want to protect their own position.
Parents who want to get revenge for their children.
Parents who want to cleor suspicion owoy from their children.
People who wont to moke the other person feel the some poin.
People who just wont to rejoin their circle of friends once more.
BUT, THERE'S NO ANSWER TO BE FOUND.
NO.
IT'S BECAUSE THERE ARE AS MANY ANSWERS AS THERE ARE PEOPLE
THAT IT'S SUCH A QUAGMIRE

AND THAT IS WHEN THE SURROUNDING PEOPLE CAUGHT UP IN THE HEAT OF "WE NEED TO SOLVE THIS!!", THEY LEAVE BEHIND THE FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE THEY'RE TRYING TO HELP.
BUT AT LEAST WE KNOW WHAT WE ABSOLUTELY MUST NOT DO.
EVEN IF IT SOLVES THE PROBLEM, IF THE FAMILIES GET THE WHOLE SCHOOL INVOLVED, IT'S NO GOOD.
IF THE PERSON YOU'RE TRYING TO HELP SAYS THEY "DON'T WANT TO MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT" OR "DON'T WANT TO DO IT",
We are thinking of conducting a survey among the school to see if there's any truth to this bullying.
She's been making loads of trouble for our daughter!
Oh. Please. Please stop.
It's clear to everyone here that your daughter is the delinquent!
My daughter said she didn't do it!
Don't you see that your daughter is lying?
Damn you, I won't forget this.
SO WHAT I'M SAYING
IS THAT WE CAN'T GIVE UP!!
IF YOU DECIDE NOT TO DO ANYTHING JUST BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T FIND AN ANSWER,
YOU WON'T GET ANYWHERE!
Understood.
Okay, I see.
So it's very important
to ask Hina-chan thoroughly what sort of way she wants this resolved.
カキカキ
メモメモ…
It's okay if this takes a while, so make sure you slowly listen to everything she's thinking about.
Even if the bullying dies down,
if she doesn't have any place there anymore, it's all meaningless.
Wow
There was a huge uproar about it?
Is that right?
I heard that ○○○○-san was bullied in 2nd year...

SFX: KAKI KAKI (WRITING) MEMO MEMO

BUT ACTUALLY,
WHAT HAS A SURPRISINGLY HIGH EFFICACY
IS THAT WHEN THE OTHER PERSON DOES SOMETHING TO YOU, YOU JUST SAY "STOP" RIGHT THERE...
DEPENDING ON THE CHILD, THEY MAY OR MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SAY THAT, THOUGH...
SO, WHAT KIND OF GIRL IS HINA-CHAN?
HINA-CHAN?
HINA-CHAN...
WELL, HM
SHE'S REALLY...
CHEERFUL AND LOUD...
SHE SMILES A LOT... GETS ANGRY OR DISHEARTENED EASILY.
I GUESS SHE'S SORT OF BEWILDERING...
OH, I SEE. AND?
Um...
HM?
AH, BUT SHE'S STRONG-WILLED. VERY MUCH SO...
You are quite observant... Kiriyama... Huh...? What...? Hey, could this be... maybe...
A FLAG?!
AND FOR SOMEONE SO CHEERFUL... SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ALL THAT MUCH CONFIDENCE IN HERSELF...
OH, SHE'S RELATIVELY SHOW OFFISH, I SUPPOSE...

UM... SO? IN WHAT WAY IS SHE CUTE?
NO, WELL, THIS IS ALL IN THE NAME OF COLLECTING DATA...
HER HAIR IS LONG AND SHINY...
SMALL, THIN ARMS AND LEGS...
UH... WELL, SHE HAS BIG EYES,
SHE IS CUTE, BUT WHY...
HUH?
AH... YES,
Is she c-cute or anything like that?
Glance Glance
Mm hmm Is that right?
So... Um uh... what else?
SHE'S VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.
AH, YES.
キッパリ
but uh, Kiriyama...
Well uh, this is just for good measure
Oh, could it be...
Is she, like important to you...?
ギギッ ギッ……
もじもじ
ソワソワ
Um... that girl...
How do I put this...
SFX KIPPARI (PLAINLY)
SFX GIKKO GIKKO GIKKO
SFX MOJI MOJI SOWA SOWA

IF SHE'S IN TROUBLE, I WANT TO DO ANYTHING I CAN TO HELP HER.
TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN FOR HER.
I INTEND
KIRI-YAMA!
(YOU'VE PLUNGED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE OF YOUTH!!)

KIRI-YAMA-KUN?

UM...

Eh...?

I've got a bit of a bad feeling about this☆

THAT'S MY WAY OF DOING THINGS AS A PERSON.

SO I'M GOING TO PAY THAT DEBT BACK HONOURABLY.

BUT SEE, I OWE HER.

SFX KIPPARI (PLAINLY)

SFX DOSSARI (PILES)

どっさり...

HEY, KIRIYAMA-KUN,

WHAT IS GOING ON WITH THESE...?

FLYER TUTOR
20K YEN FOR 3 HOURS (THOROUGH PERSONAL LESSONS)
1 DAY PER WEEK - 20,000 YEN
2 DAYS PER WEEK - 36 000 YEN
4 DAYS PER WEEK - 70 000 YEN
STICKY NOTE 280K PER MONTH X 9 MONTHS
TOTAL 2 52M

ANYHOW, KIRIYAMA-KUN,

I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE THIS NEW SIDE OF YOU

SFX BASASAH

Ah!

SORRY, I GOT A LITTLE HEATED THERE

IT'S TOTALLY FINE

Oops!

AH, NOT AT ALL,

SFX GASHAH

SFX PAN PAN

JUST TALKING ABOUT IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE

WELL SINCE I WAS MAKING A PROPOSAL, I FELT I SHOULD PIN DOWN SOME REALISTIC NUMBERS.

Since I have a debt to pay I can't be getting unrealistic

Oh good Looks like my calculator is still working!

SO, UH, THESE REALLY ROUGH AND SMALL HANDWRITTEN NUMBERS ARE...

DON'T TELL ME, MATCH WINNINGS...?!

FLYER SHISHI-OU TOURNAMENT
STICKY NOTE TOTAL 3 6M-9M
BOTTOM KIRIYAMA REI

TOTAL 360万 ~ 900万

計150万

TOURNAMENT SHEETS FOR VARIOUS SHOGI CHAMPIONSHIPS, RIGHT?

UM... OKAY, THESE ARE...

SFX: SHINSHIN (VERY DEEPLY)
SFX: SUCHAH
深々
NOW THEN,
I LEARNED A WHOLE LOT!!
SENSEI, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOU DID TODAY!!
EXCUSE ME!!
I WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL TO TALK WITH YOU AGAIN!!
That is what Sensei yelled in his head at this moment.
about this kid.
There's something really off
Serious look
Oops, it's about time for my study group... I'd better hurry!!
SO,
I CAN'T BE LOSING ANY MATCHES FOR THE NEXT LITTLE WHILE.
There's something off...
"I can't be losing." Did you just say that offhand?
WOODEN STATUE...

Carrying a calculator,

the hoy Kiriyama Rei 5-dan, age 18,

is going to try to intervene in the life of a girl to which to which he owes a deht...

Will Hayashida, his homeroom teacher (from last year) he ahle to stop Kiriyama's reckless hehaviour?

Keep yonr eyes peeled!!

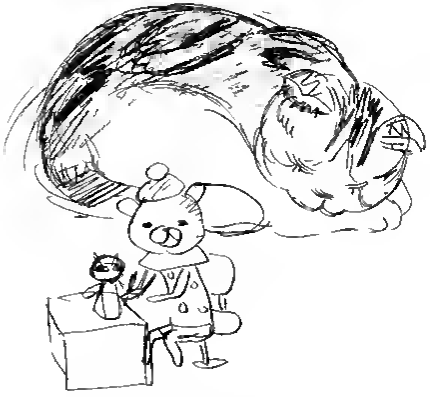
Otherwise, people are going to start drawing away from him!!

Before Kiriyama goes to her house with those papers and starts a speech!!

Even if it costs some part of my career as a teacher, I have to do something!!

I must do some research...

Chapter 54 END



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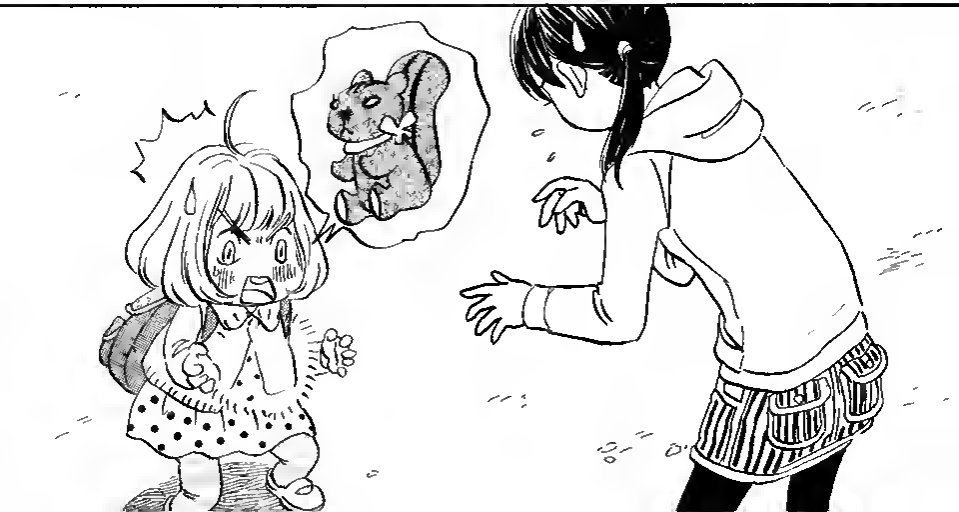
Chica Umino

Chapter 55

Confession



SFX: DANN...
DAMMIT...
SFX: FURU FURU (TREMBLING)
Finally... Finally,
he's mustered up some motiva-tion!?
with the flame of undying passion!?
Is he now burning
SFX: GOSUH (THUD)
OHH...
WHAT'S WRONG, KIRIYAMA?
I'VE NEVER SEEN KIRIYAMA LOOK SO FRUSTRATED AFTER A LOSS...

SFX GIRI GIRI GIRI GIRI GIRI GIRI (GRINDING)
DAMMIT!!
WITH JUST ONE MORE WIN, I WOULD'VE MADE IT TO THE SEMI-FINALS WHERE THE MATCH WINNINGS DOUBLE!
SFX GUH (CLENCH)
Kiri-yama...
Welcome to the world of best friends!
WAS ALL THAT TALK ABOUT PAYING BACK YOUR DEBTS JUST AN EMPTY PROMISE, KIRIYAMA REI?!!
SHIT! I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!
If I want Hina-chan to have somewhere to go no matter what happens, then I...
or she needs to talk to a lawyer, she's going to need money!
or she needs a tutor for when she takes time off school,
If by some chance, she ends up changing schools,
HEY!! NIKAIDOU!! YOU THERE?!
YEAH! WHAT IS IT, BEST FRIEND?!
BEST FRIEND!!
OF COURSE!
I WANNA OO VS. WOULD YOU MIND HANGING OUT WITH ME?!
Good for you Nikaidou!!
SOB
SFX GUHH
SFX HARA HARARI (DRIP DROP)
VS → ONE-ON-ONE STUDY GROUP

LET'S HAVE 10 MATCHES WITH 30 MINUTES OF AVAIL-ABLE TIME!!
DON'T FALL BEHIND, NIKAI-DOUUU!!
AS LONG AS WE HAVE A BOARD AND PIECES,
IS MY PLACE OKAY?!
THAT'LL BE OUR BATTLE-FIELD! KIRI-YAMAHHH!!
ANY-WHERE'S FINE!!
THERE'S NO WAY I'M LOSING IN THE NEXT KISHOU CHAMPION-SHIP!!
INSIDE KIRIYAMA'S HEAD
MONEY
MONEY MONEY
MONEY
SHOGI
MONEY MONEY
MONEY
IN FACT, I'M NOT LOSING ANOTHER MATCH EVER!!
INSIDE NIKAIDOU'S HEAD
BEST FRIEND
BEST FRIEND
BEST FRIEND
SHOGI
BEST FRIEND
OHHH, BRING IT ON, KIRI-YAMA!!
SFX ZAHH

But still, I can't give up!
I can't underestimate the real world.
I have to be realistic.
I have to.

That Sunday,
I got a text from Akari-san.
SORRY ABOUT THIS, KIRIYAMA-KUN
YOU'RE A LIFE-SAVER
SFX: ZUSSHIRI
BOX: ONIONS
Pork for 126 yen per 100 grams and milk for 99 yen a bottle...
And there were chicken thighs for 48 yen per 100 grams and margarine for 99 yen a tub!
I MEAN, THEY HAD ONIONS AND POTATOES FOR 200 YEN A BOX... HOW COULD I NOT BUY THEM?
THEY HAD ALL THESE DEALS TO COMMEMORATE THEIR RECENT REMODELING
Pwww geez, I was a way too happy!
No, it's no trouble.
Thus is nothing..
SFX: FURA FURA
BAGS: MARUEI SUPERMARKET
AH,
THEY WENT TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK IN ASAKUSA
SHE'S WITH MOMO AND OJII-CHAN
WHERE'S HINA-CHAN TODAY?
That's how it's always been,
and that's certainly how it's going to be going forward.
Now, above all,
it's for Hina-chan...!

SIGN: FLOWER ESTATE
I HOPE IT CHEERS HER UP A BIT
SO OJII-CHAN TOOK HER THERE
AS YOU'D EXPECT, SHE'S BEEN FEELING A LITTLE DOWN,
HEY, KIRIYAMA-KUN, ARE YOU OKAY?
I COULD CARRY ONE OF THEM FOR A LITTLE
I'M FINE.
Faint Faint
PER-FECTLY FINE.
Wheeze Wheeze
I AM A GUY
AFTER ALL...
I'M OKAY
YOU'RE SURE YOU'RE OKAY? DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD
YOU'RE SURE?
SFX: FURA FURA (WOBBLING)
BOXES, POTATOES, ONIONS

SFX PITAH (FREEZE)
BOXES POTATOES ONIONS
52 KILOS, I GUESS
REI-KUN, YOU'RE NOT REALLY PLUMPING UP, ARE YOU?
I'M WORRIED HOW MANY KILOS ARE YOU AT RIGHT NOW?
HUH?
HOW MUCH DO I WEIGH? UM—
Huh?
Ah...
Akari-san?
Um, wait up
for me...
Huuuh?!
SFX SUTA SUTA SUTA SUTA SUTA SUTA
KIRI-YAMA-KUN,
THANK YOU
Ummm...
OKAY, I'LL JUST LEAVE THEM HERE
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
BRING THEM IN
Uh, but I...
I'm always .. intruding on you guys like this...
And uh it kinda looks like you've read about something
SFX ODO ODO... (HESITANT)
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
DO YOU WANT ME TO DO ALL THE PREP-WORK FOR ALL THESE VEGETABLES BY MYSELF?!
HELP ME OUT!!
O-
OKAY!!

HERE.
FIRST, PEEL THE OUTER LAYERS OFF ALL THE ONIONS.
THEN REMOVE THE FIBERS FROM THE STRING BEANS.
HAVE YOU EVER DONE THAT BEFORE?
YES, I'LL BE ALRIGHT.
SFX: ZAAAHH
.....
I'M REALLY
NO GOOD
SFX: ZAAAHH
HUH?
YOU DIDN' DO A DANG THING WRONG!!
YA HELPED A FRIEND! HOLD YOUR HEAD HIGH!
OJII-CHAN
GAVE HER ALL THAT SUPPORT, BUT
SFX: ZAAAHH

AT THAT MOMENT,
ONEI-CHAN
WHAT AM I
I JUST HESITATED.
I COULDN'T OFFER HINA ANY SUPPORT LIKE THAT.
I SAID THINGS LIKE, "WHY DID YOU DO THAT?"
"WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOONER?"
"WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE HANDLED IT BETTER?"
"WHY?"
FAR FROM IT
.....
AKARI-SAN...

I WAS LECTURED BY OJII-CHAN...
I MEAN, I DO FEEL THE SAME WAY
I END UP PUTTING THE SAFETY OF MY CHILD OVER THAT OF ANOTHER'S CHILD.
THAT'S NATURAL. EVERYONE'S THE SAME
ザアアー
SFX: ZAAARR
BUT, THINK ABOUT IT.
DID HINA DO ANYTHING WRONG?
SHE DIDN'T, RIGHT?
HINA'S ALREADY SUFFERING ENOUGH
AND YET,
ON TOP OF THAT,
IF WE'RE SAYING THINGS LIKE, "WHY WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?",

HINA WILL TRULY NO LONGER HAVE A PLACE WHERE SHE CAN BELONG, YOU KNOW?
MOST OF ALL,
EVEN KNOWING
SHE MIGHT END UP BEING PICKED ON NEXT,
SHE STILL STAYED BY HER FRIEND'S SIDE.
HINA'S
BRAVERY
AND RIGHTEOUS NESS,
SHOULDN'T WE PRAISE THEM?
EVER SINCE MOM DIED,
I'VE TAKEN HER PLACE AS MOTHER TO HINA AND MOMO.
IT HAPPENED WHEN I WAS 19, AND THERE WAS SO MUCH I DIDN'T KNOW.
BUT,
MOM HAD COUNTED ON ME.
SO I PUSHED MYSELF AS HARD AS I COULD.

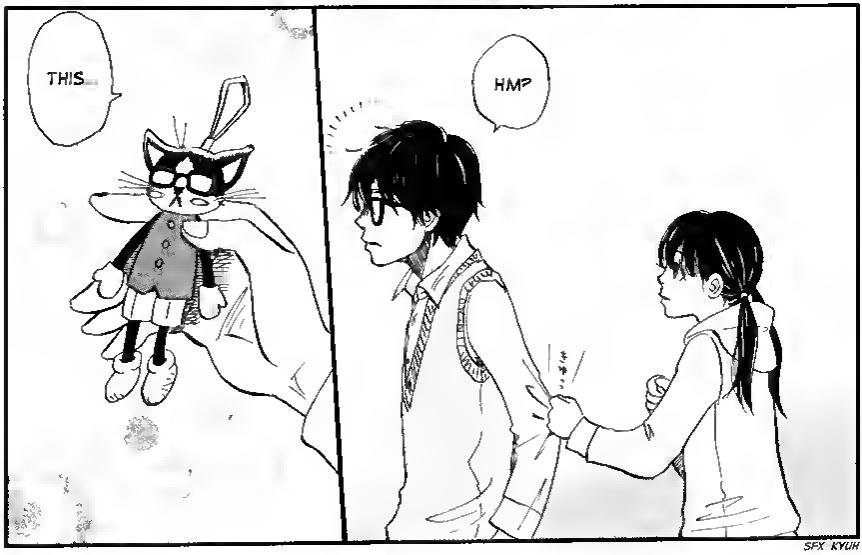
I WOULD ALWAYS TELL HER THESE SELF-AGGRANDISING THINGS,
"MAKE SURE YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND YOU".
AND
"BE KIND TO OTHERS"
BUT WHEN IT COMES RIGHT DOWN TO IT, THIS IS WHAT I AM...
WHO CARES ABOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS—
I WISH YOU'D HAVE JUST
RUN AWAY FROM IT...
HINA GAVE EVERY-THING SHE HAD FOR HER FRIEND, BUT...
I...

AKARI-SAN,
THAT'S...
THAT'S NOT RIGHT.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL.
YOU DON'T WANT YOUR FAMILY TO GO THROUGH HARDSHIPS LIKE THAT.
I MEAN,
THE ONE WHO LOOKS OUT FOR HINA-CHAN MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE
IS YOU, AKARI-SAN
I'VE BEEN CUT OFF FROM PEOPLE EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE.
BUT,
NO ONE WHO'S LENDING A HELPING HAND
WANTS SOMETHING UTTERLY HORRIBLE LIKE THAT
TO HAPPEN TO THEM.

AT THAT MOMENT,
I FELT LIKE I'D BEEN SAVED
SHE SAID THAT SHE "DIDN'T REGRET IT" AND THAT SHE "WASN'T WRONG".
LIKE SHE WAS TRYING TO CONVINCE HERSELF OF IT.
BUT, THAT DAY, EVEN AS HINA-CHAN
WAS SAYING SHE WAS "SCARED",
I ALSO OWE YOU, AKARI-SAN.
SINCE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO RAISED HINA-CHAN TO BE SUCH A *BRAVE GIRL*,
SO,
I FEEL LIKE I OWE HINA-CHAN

HOW ABOUT CURRY FOR DINNER?
OKAY
I NEED TO MAKE A LOT OF IT,
OR I'M SURE
YOU'LL GO HOME WITH AN EMPTY STOMACH
WE'RE HOOOME!
AH!
IT'S REI-CHAN
YOU KNOW WHAT?! PIKATU WAS THERE!!
HEY
AND I RODE ON PANDA-CHAN!!
Puff! Puff!
HEY, HOLD ON, MOMO! TAKE YOUR SHOES OFF!

SFX KAAH (BLUSSH)



SFX KYUH

Chapter 55 END

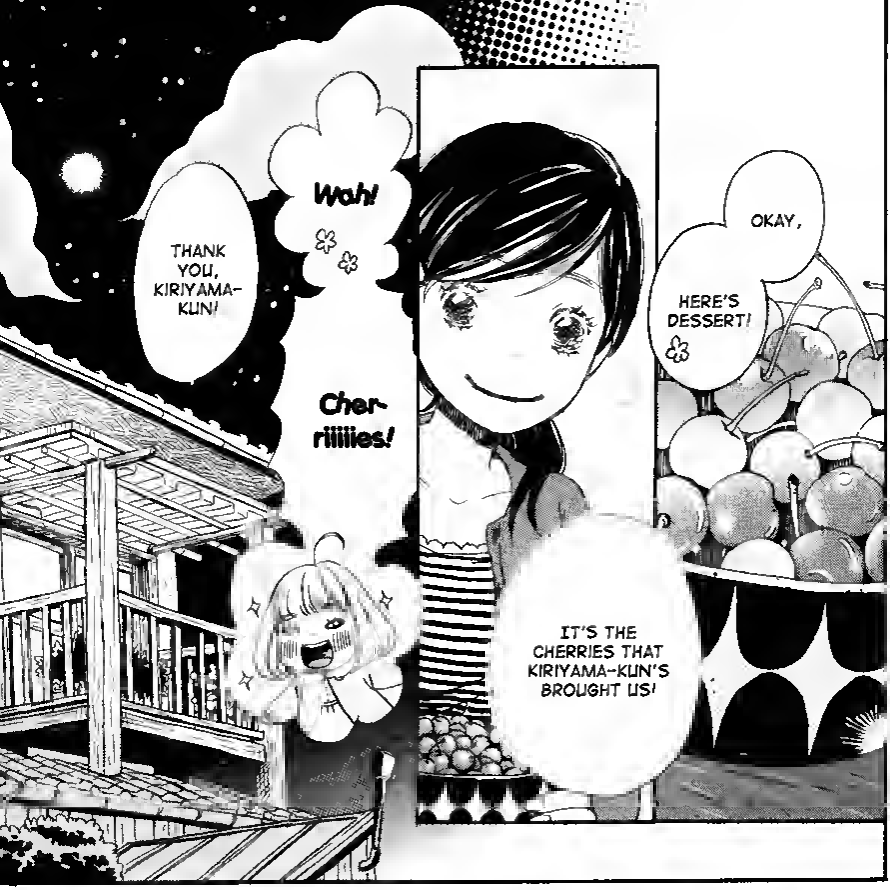
Chapter 56

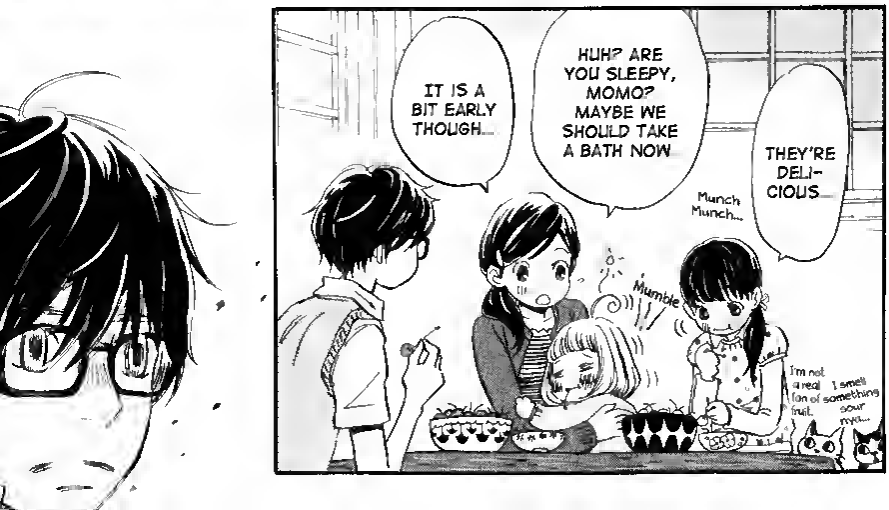
Small World

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

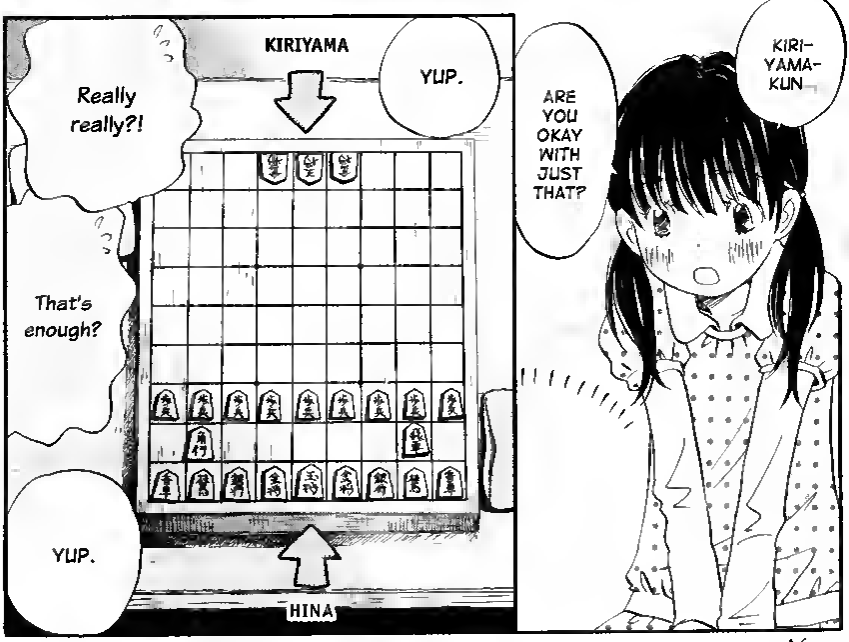
Chica Umino


Wah!
THANK YOU, KIRIYAMA-KUN!
Cher-riiiies!
OKAY, HERE'S DESSERT!
IT'S THE CHERRIES THAT KIRIYAMA-KUN'S BROUGHT US!


IT IS A BIT EARLY THOUGH...
HUH? ARE YOU SLEEPY, MOMO? MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE A BATH NOW
THEY'RE DELI-CIOUS...
Munch Munch...
Mumble
I'm not a real fan of fruit.
I smell something sour myo...

The Kawamoto Family's living room is a changing room!!!!!
I'M GOING TO GIVE MOMO A QUICK BATH
THEN, COULD YOU DO IT ON THE SECOND FLOOR?
I wanna play monopoly!
I wanna play with Ranchaaaaaan!
AH.
HUH?
AH, YES, I WILL! Of course!!
Y...
You'll go easy on me, right?
カタカタカタ
HUH?!
OKAY... HOW ABOUT WE PLAY EACH OTHER, HINA-CHAN?
IN SHOGI...
.....

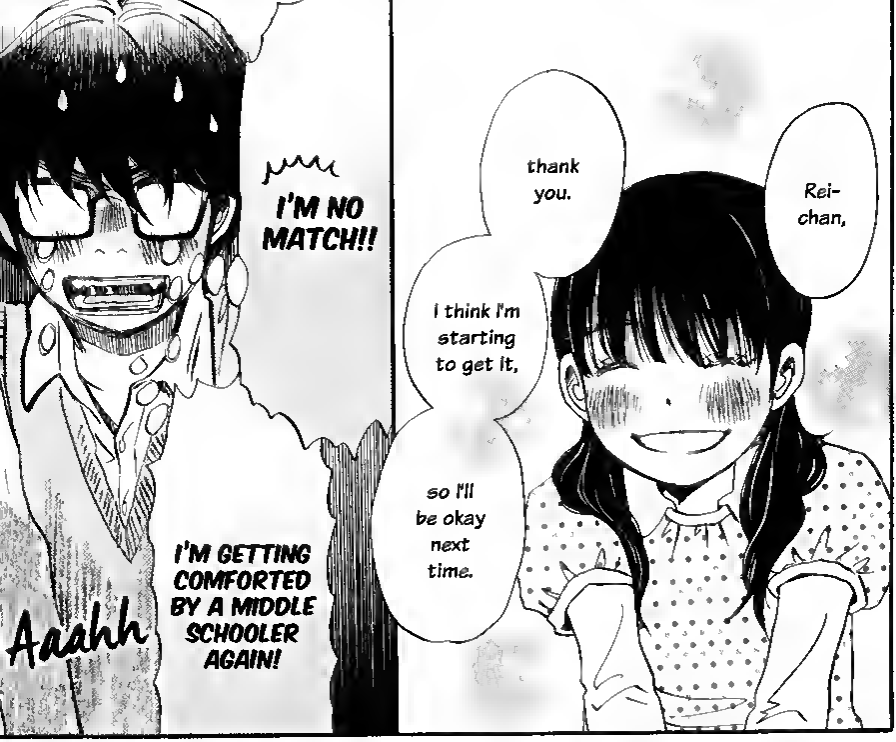
SFX: KATA KATA KATA KATA (SHAKING)

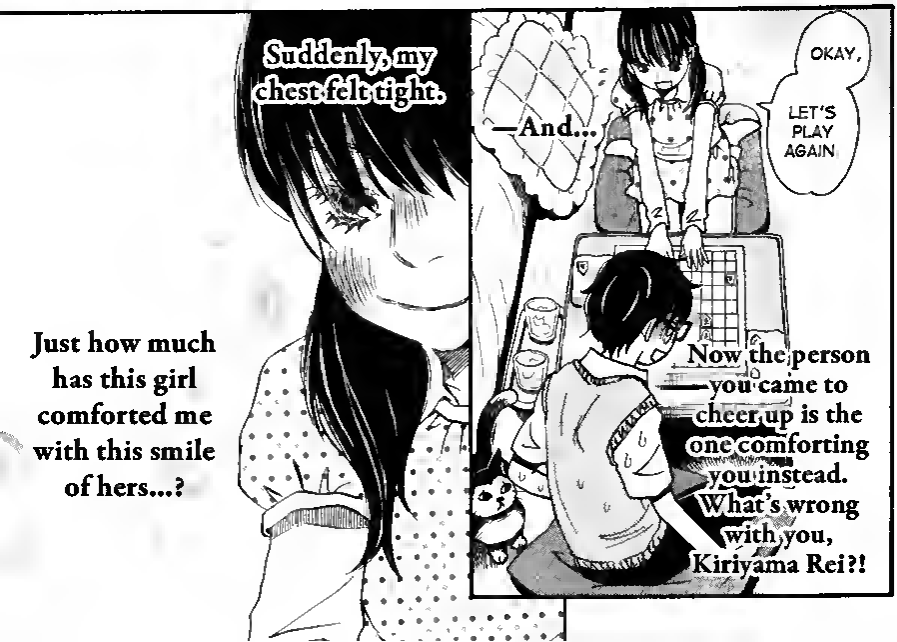


Ah.
WELL, IT'S A RULE THAT IN SHOGI GAMES WHERE ONE PLAYER HAS FEWER PIECES, THAT PLAYER IS SENTE
HUH?
WHY DOESN'T HINA GET TO GO FIRST?
AREN'T YOU GOING EASY ON ME?
HUH? AH... BUT, UM, O-KAY...
GO A-HEAD
Looks like the first time he's been in Hina chan's room
Okay! ☆
OKAY, LET'S GET STARTED THEN.
I think I might be able to win now!
Oookay!
—Five minutes later—
SHOGI
AH!
...I lost.
LET'S TRY AGAIN!!
OKAY. I'LL BE OKAY WITH JUST THE GYOKU AND A KIN!

OOPS.
YOU TOOK MY 5-5 FU, EH...?
NOT BAD!
Dammit...
What kinda piece of shit am I?!!
Yokomizo-san can allow even the people in the far corners of the room to have a good time. They taught me a lot.
Y... YOU FIRE THEM AT A DISTANCE!!
WHAT DO YOU DO WITH "BIG PIECES"?
OKAY,
THEN LET ME GIVE YOU A HINT.
CORRECT.
SFX BISHITSU
The president is so good at finding the right thing to say to let his opponent have fun and look good.

SFX JIIIIHHH (STAAARE)
HERE GOES
HM?
YOU LOOK CLOSELY AT THE OTHER PERSON
IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMUNICATION, KIRIYAMA
YOU IMAGINE WHAT THEY WANT TO DO AND WHAT THEY'RE THINKING
AND GET CLOSER TO THE OTHER PERSON'S FEELINGS
YOU LOOK REAAAL CLOSE AT THE OTHER PERSON
Okay now calm down. Let's take this easy
From when he was in the waiting room at his first shogi event.
SFX KOKU KOKU (NODDING)


I'M NO MATCH!!
Aaahh
I'M GETTING COMFORTED BY A MIDDLE SCHOOLER AGAIN!
Rei-chan,
thank you.
I think I'm starting to get it,
so I'll be okay next time.


Suddenly, my chest felt tight.
Just how much has this girl comforted me with this smile of hers...?
—And...
OKAY,
LET'S PLAY AGAIN
Now the person you came to cheer up is the one comforting you instead. What's wrong with you, Kiriyama Rei?!

HEY, UM,
HINA-CHAN,
DO YOU MIND TELLING ME ABOUT IT?
WE DON'T HAVE TO GO INTO IT ALL AT ONCE
ABOUT SCHOOL...
EVERY-ONE'S LOOKING AT ME FROM A DISTANCE.
YA KNOW...
IT'S KIND OF LIKE...
RIGHT NOW...
THE CLASS IS GROUPED BY ALPHA-BETICAL ORDER.
BUT AT LUNCH TIME AND STUFF, I KNOW EVERY-ONE'S REALLY UPTIGHT...
NOBODY'S LOOKING MY WAY ALL THAT MUCH...
IT'S KIND OF LIKE...
OUR GROUP IS LIKE A WAKE-

Little by little, Hina-chan slowly

started to talk about what was on her mind.

The landscape of Hina-chan's class...

That is probably

a story that everyone

THERE REALLY SHOULDN'T BE ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
BUT...
BUT, THERE DEFINITELY IS.
ALWAYS HAS BEEN.
EVER SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
...HEY, KIRIYAMA-KUN,
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
THAT ATMOS-PHERE...
has experienced for themselves
somewhere...
THE WHOLE WHO'S IMPOR-TANT
AND WHO ISN'T IMPORTANT THING.
HOW AND WHEN
DID THAT GET DECIDED?
WHO GETS TO DECIDE?
WE SHOULD ALL BE THE SAME,
REGULAR
MIDDLE SCHOOL-ERS.

WE'RE ALL JUST REGULAR PEOPLE.
SFX SHIIIIIIN
Munch Munch Munch
Distance
SFX DONYORI (HEAVY)
Th... That's so awk-ward...
THANKS FOR THE MEAL.
So I take it was saying
Kyaha haha haha
Munch... Munch Munch Munch Munch
Bite Bite Bite Bite Bite Munch Munch
Oh don't do that!
Kyah kyah
KYAA
HA HA HA
SFX SUKKU (GETTING UP)

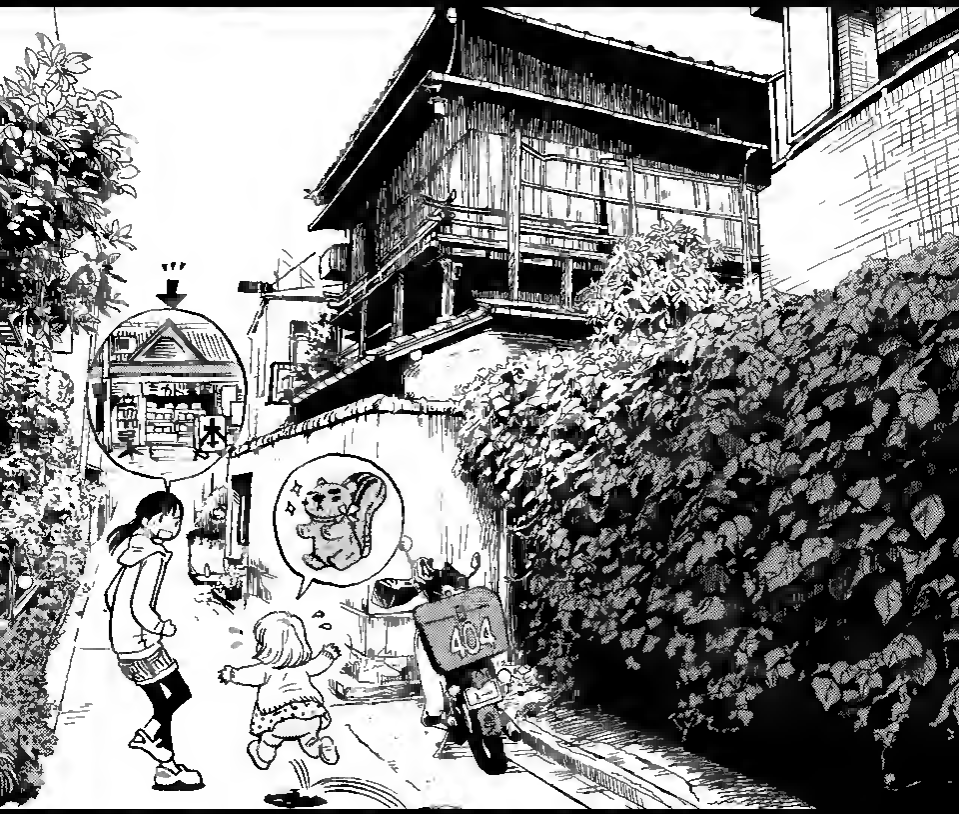
SFX: SARAH (RATTLE)
サラッ
IS KAWAMOTO HERE?
TA-
TAKA-HASHI-KUN?!
Hawawa...
SFX: ZUBAAAAN
スパーン
HUH? NO WAY.
I THREW THAT SUPER SOFT.
OW! OW! OW! OW!
GYAAAAA AAAAAAA AAAAAAH!
SFX: BIKI BIKI BIKI /JIIN

I HEARD FROM KIRIYAMA-SAN.
HUH?
WE CAN PLAY CATCH.
AROUND LUNCH TIME,
SO IF YOU'RE WORRIED OR SOMETHING,
They're already looking in...
I'LL CALL MY PALS FROM THE BASEBALL TEAM.
IF YOU DON'T WANT IT TO BE JUST US TWO,
How I could you! Takahashi you bastard!
It's a girl!
Grandpa was sleeping just a little while ago but he jumped right outta bed
MY OLD MAN AND MY GRANDPA WERE BOTH REALLY HAPPY ABOUT IT.
YESTERDAY, KIRIYAMA CAME TO MY PLACE TO DO SOME TEACHING GAMES.
Aaahh... I see.
I should've expected no less!
You're so amaaazing Pro Player-sama!
For 4-3 grn. you go with 3-4 fu.
Well it's a surprise attack
Mhm
Mhm
Mhm
OHH, I SEE!! I GET YA!!

INVITE ME OVER AGAIN FOR CURRY!
KARAAGE CURRY
THE OTHER DAY, MY OLD MAN AND GRANDPA
TOTALLY TOOK OVER, SO I COULDN'T EVEN TALK TO KIRIYAMA-SAN.
.....
Sure!
SFX: ZUHBAAN
OWWW!
THAT SO DOES NOT HURT!
Chapter 56 END

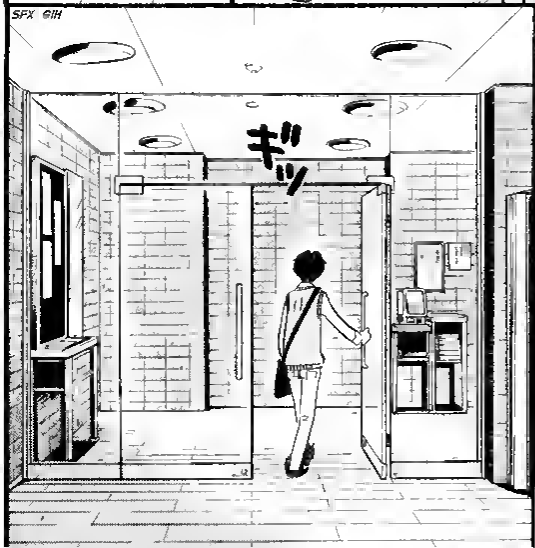
Chapter 57

Letter



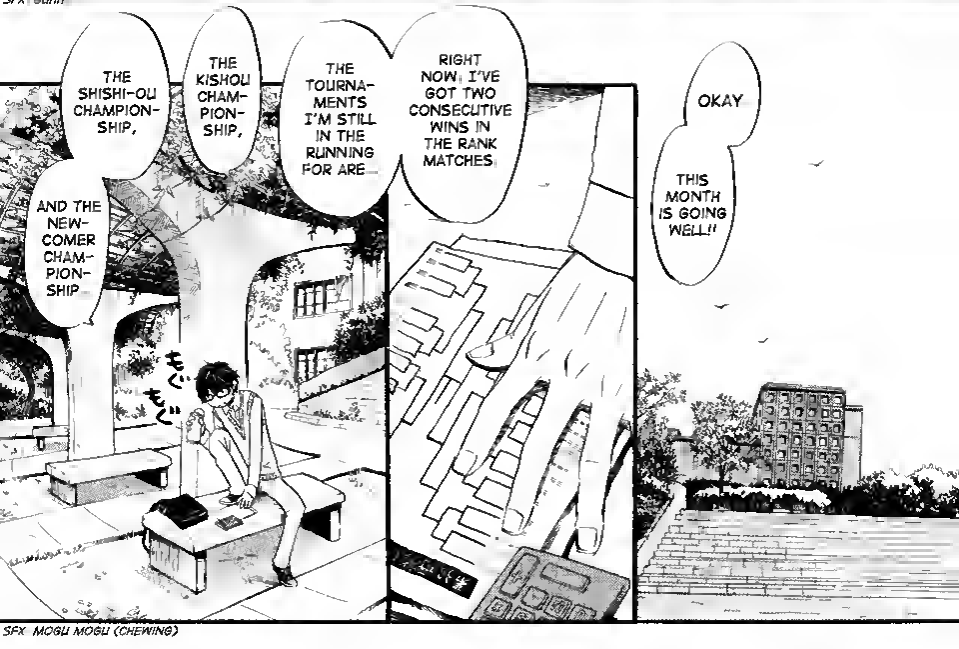
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
T-THANK YOU VERY MUCH
GOOD JOB TODAY, KIRIYAMA 5-DAN
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK, TOO

SFX GIH


ギッ

IF I CAN GET JUST ONE MORE WIN, I'LL MAKE IT TO THE SEMI-FINALS OF THE KISHOU CHAMPIONSHIP PRELIMINARIES!!
THAT MAKES FOUR WINS!!
ALL RIIIIGHT!
ぐっっ。。
将棋会館

SFX: GUHH


THE SHISHI-OU CHAMPION-SHIP,
THE KISHOU CHAM-PION-SHIP,
THE TOURNA-MENTS I'M STILL IN THE RUNNING FOR ARE...
RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT TWO CONSECUTIVE WINS IN THE RANK MATCHES.
OKAY
THIS MONTH IS GOING WELL!!
AND THE NEW-COMER CHAM-PION-SHIP...
もぐもぐ

SFX: MOGU MOGU (CHEWING)

I REALLY WANT TO WIN IN THE SHISH!-OU CHAMPION-SHIP
THEN I CAN BREAK INTO MY GOAL AMOUNT!!
IF I CAN COME OUT ON TOP IN GROUP 5 AND GET INTO THE TOURNAMENT TO DETERMINE THE CHALLENGER
BUT THE NEWCOMER TOURNAMENT
SETTING THE PRIZE MONEY ASIDE, I REALLY WANT TO GET ONE MORE WIN
SO I CAN GET THE MOMENTUM TO MAKE IT ALL THE WAY TO FINALS!!
ALRIGHT!
PRACTICE TIME!!
C'MON, YOU'VE GOT THIS!!
I'M GONNA BE THE NEWCOMER KING!!
SFX PASHI PASHI!!

MORN-ING!
MORN-ING!
SFX: ZAWA ZAWA
ザワ
ザワ
Quit making goo-goo eyes, moron!
SFX: GOSHI GOSHI GOSHI (WIPING)

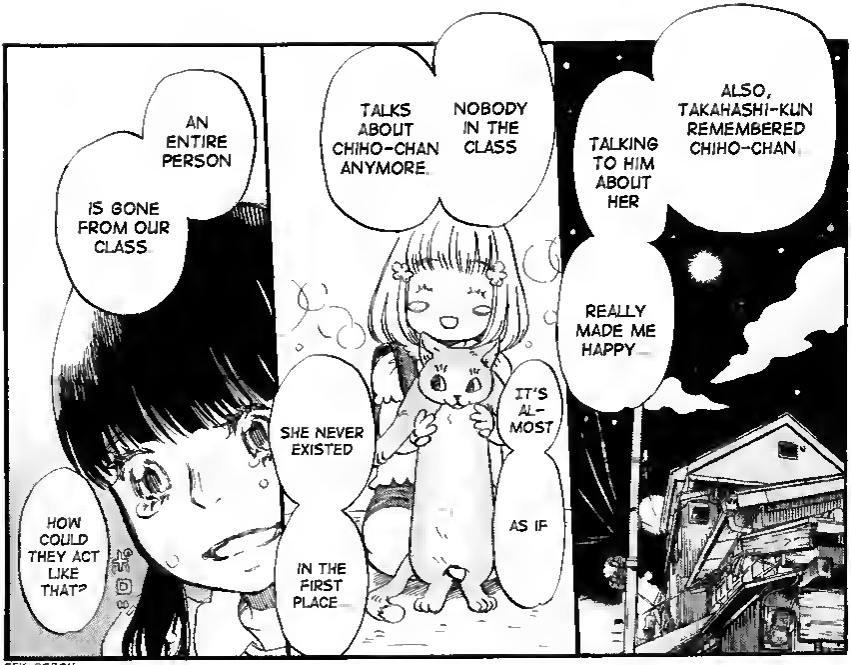
SFX: KIIIN KOOOHN KAAAN
SFX: WAI WAI
キーン
コーン
カーン
ワイ
ワイ
SFX: HISOHI
ゴズッ!
GYAHH!
I knew I shouldn't have eaten all that...
Sigh...
I guess this is what people call a belly ache
WAI WAI
kyahahaha
Thanks for the rescue!!
T-Takahashi-kun!
WHAT'RE YOU STILL IN HERE FOR?
BITCH.

SFX: GIKUH (GULP)
HEY, TAKAGI!!
THAT'S YOUR NAME, RIGHT?
Um, I think we were in the same class in first year
SFX: BORI BORI (SCRATCHING)
UM, THANKS TAKA-HASHI-KUN
BUT...
I'M FEELING KINDA...
Mhm
Playing dumb
YOU WANNA COME WITH US?
OKAAY!
YOU GUYS READY?
I'M GONNA THROW IT, OKAY?
C'mooon he said it'd be fiine!
No way! I'm scared!
Start with Meg!
Kyah
Kyah
Kyah

SFX GUOHH
GET SET—
SFX DOOONNN GYURURUH
HUHH?
WHAT, YOU GUYS GOIN' ALREADY?
Wait for me Meg!
I don't care! That guy's crazy!
That jerk
Screw you!
SFX GYAAAAA GYAAAAA
What's wrooong?
SFX A AWAWA
Hey!
Takahashi-kun...
あ
SFX FURU FURU

TAKA-HASHI-KUN
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEM THEY THREW THE GLOVE ON THE GROUND AND RAN OFF
THE ONE WHO CHANGED SCHOOLS,
THAT WAS SAKURA CHIHO, RIGHT..?
HUH?
DURING OUR OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP IN SECOND YEAR,
SO THEN
IT WAS REALLY WINDY OUT, YOU KNOW. MY LUNCH BOX FLIPPED OVER, AND EVERYTHING WAS COVERED IN SAND.
SHE GAVE ME HALF OF HERS
SHE SMILED AND SAID,
"HERE YOU GO".
ANYBODY WHO'D GIVE SOMEONE ELSE THEIR FOOD
IS A GOOD PERSON... I REMEMBER THINKING.
SO,
I'LL PLAY CATCH WITH YOU WHENEVER YOU WANT.

I KINDA THOUGHT IT'D BE GOOD TO SHOW PEOPLE THAT YOU'VE GOT FRIENDS
I SEE...
NO, KIRIYAMA-KUN, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
WE'RE GONNA KEEP PLAYING CATCH! I MEAN, I'M ENJOYING IT, TOO!
AHHH!
I hadn't thought it through that far. I'm really sorry.
Takahashi-kun's so cool...
BUT I'm sorry.
There's a useless person here, aye.
I see... So they were jealous, huh...?
Yeah, useless boy.
Useless...


ALSO, TAKAHASHI-KUN REMEMBERED CHIHO-CHAN...
TALKING TO HIM ABOUT HER
REALLY MADE ME HAPPY...
NOBODY IN THE CLASS TALKS ABOUT CHIHO-CHAN ANYMORE...
IT'S AL-MOST AS IF
SHE NEVER EXISTED IN THE FIRST PLACE...
AN ENTIRE PERSON IS GONE FROM OUR CLASS...
HOW COULD THEY ACT LIKE THAT?
SFX: POROH

HUH?
HUH, WHAT'S THIS?
SORRY.
IT'S OKAY, HERE...
REI-CHAN, THANKS FOR ALWAYS LISTENING TO ME.
YOU ALWAYS ASK, "WHAT DOES HINA-CHAN WANT TO DO?"
AND ALL...
...BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO...

I'M SO FRUS-TRATED.
WHAT DO I WANT TO DO?
I WANT TO TELL THEM ALL HOW STUPID THEY ARE AND HIT THEM
I REALLY, REALLY WANT TO
I WANT TO MAKE THEM SUFFER THE WAY THAT CHIHO-CHAN DID
AND THEN,
MAKE THEM REALISE...
WHAT IT IS
THEY'VE DONE.
She sent Chiho-chan a letter
but she waited and waited and never got a reply...
What came instead
BUT,
CHIHO-CHAN IS
GONE NOW
IT'S TOO LATE
BESIDES,
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
was a letter from Chiho-chan's mother—
TO HAVE THEM APOLOGISE TO HER
No.2
Even here, Chiho is still not attending school. She is undergoing rehab with a counsellor at a place called "Heart Care Centre".
to write to you, but
I cannot

There's something

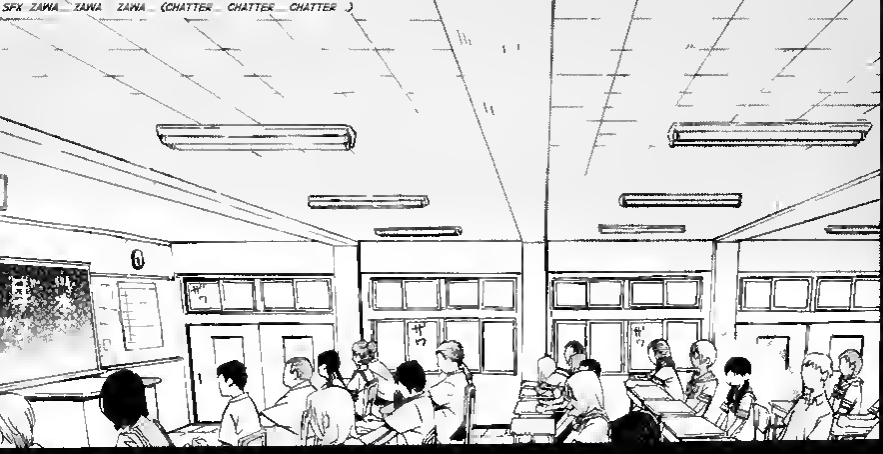
I've come to realise.

I used to think

that if something was too painful, you could just walk away.

That it was okay not to respectably face people

who were doing less than respectable things.


SFX ZAWA ZAWA ZAWA (CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER)

But...

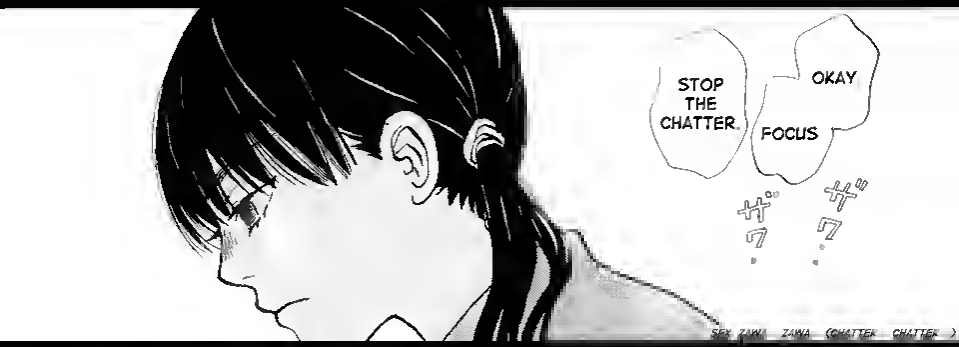
Hinata likes
tch
Slut
iot
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
WH...
K-KAWA-MOTO-SAN!
Bow!!
!!
HUH ...?
ガラ
Stand!
I DON'T KNOW.

That's right, she...

KAWAMOTO-SAN, ISN'T IT JUST A MISUNDER-STANDING?
YOU CAN'T CALL THEM BAD PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THAT.
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO WROTE IT
.....
IT WAS ALREADY THERE
WHEN I GOT HERE THIS MORNING
SFX: ZAWA ZAWA...
SFX: ZAWA...

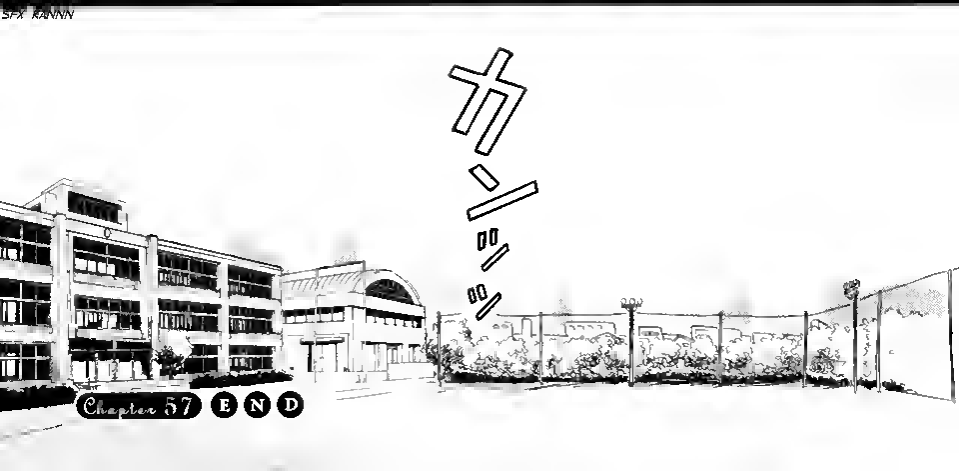
isn't only in pain.

She's angry.



And,

it's a seething anger from her gut.



Chapter 58

Start of the Rainy Season

Ugh...
UM, HELLO
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG, HINA-CHAN?
OH, KIRIYAMA-KUN.
GYAAAAA!
OH, IT'S JUST HER NOSE A NOSEBLEED
SORRY TO SCARE YOU WITH ALL THE BLOOD
NOOO! DON'T LOOK AT ME~~!
GET THE BATH TOWEL, ONEI-CHAAAN!
YEAH, YEAH

I'M SO EMBARRASSED!
DON'T LOOK AT MEEE!
OH, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT! IT'S JUST A LITTLE NOSEBLEED.
CALM DOWN NOW.
OOOH, WHAT BIG PEACHES.
THAT'S WONDERFUL! I LOVE THESE!
SO MANY... WEREN'T THEY EXPENSIVE?
UM, DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH HINA-CHAN?
HM...
YEAH, IT SEEMS...
THIS AND THAT HAPPENED AT SCHOOL...

Don't looook!
HINA-CHAN
SFX HATATO
はたっ
YEAH.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
AH...
ACTU-ALLY,
YEAH.
DO YOU GET THEM A LOT TOO, KIRIYAMA-KUN?
Heavy-ho...
REALLY?
IT'S NOTHING TO GET UPSET ABOUT.
IT'S OKAY, EVERY-BODY GETS NOSE-BLEEDS.
SFX KUN KUN
YOU LIAR! DUMMY!!
I NEVER HAVE.
At all
SORRY, I DON'T
OKAY, OKAY...
GET THEM OFF MEEE..
THE CAT'S SO HEAVY!
No nya!! I wanna stay here nya!
REI-CHAAAN!
WHAT?
I BOUGHT SOME PEACHES.
Trying not to look
THOUGH ICE CREAM MIGHT'VE BEEN A BETTER IDEA...
The type that does what he's told
PEACHES ARE FINE.
I LIKE PEACHES...
OH, GLAD TO HEAR THAT
SFX NYOOON

THANKS
NO PROB-LEM.
THEN,
I'M GONNA HEAD OFF TO THE SALE FOR A BIT
MAKE SURE YOU LIE DOWN FOR ANOTHER 20 MINUTES, OKAY?
OKAAY.
SO, HINA
HER HOME-ROOM TEACH-ER
ASKED TO SEE HER AFTER CLASS
WHY...? IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS FOR A LONG TIME,
EVEN BACK WHEN SAKURA-SAN WAS HERE, I'M SURE I'D TOLD YOU ABOUT IT!
CAN'T YOU GET ALONG WITH EVERYONE, KAWAMOTO-SAN?
Sniff...
WHY?
WHY IS THIS HAPPEN-ING?

WHY ARE YOU BEING SO UNCOOPERATIVE?
HONESTLY, KAWAMOTO-SAN...
PLEASE, NOT SO LOUD!
Suddenly, everything in front of me turned red.
And it wasn't just because of the sunset...
SHE'S BEEN REALLY ANGRY, CRYING AND WILD...
SO, UNTIL JUST NOW,
WHAT IS HER PROBLEM?" I THOUGHT.
MY MIND JUST WENT BLANK...
I WAS, TOO.
IT MUST'VE BEEN REALLY FRUSTRATING...
Hina-chan...

I'LL PROBABLY BE CALLED THERE MYSELF SOON...
.....
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN REPRESENT OUR FAMILY
I WONDER IF THE OTHER GIRL'S PARENTS WILL COME...
I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN COMPETE WITH THAT...
WHAT IF THEY'RE THOSE
HEY NOW, WHAT IS YOUR GIRL SAYING ABOUT OUR CUTE LITTLE DAUGHTER?
MONSTER PARENTS I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT?
Ahhh
Anxiety...
*We bring you a visualisation of her imagination
IF THAT HAPPENS,
I WONDER IF IT'D BE A GOOD IDEA
FOR US TO ACTIVATE OUR MONSTER GRANDFATHER?!
What have you done to my grandchild?! Godammiiit?!!
ROOOOOAR
AND IF THAT DOESN'T WORK...
WE'D USE OUR ULTIMATE WEAPON, MISAKI OBA-SAMA!!
Now then...
Ginza XX street's shadow monster!
Uh-
Um
Akari-san?
AHHHH!!
What should I do?! My alma mater will become a sea of flames!
Why don't we settle this peacefully?!
Properly?!

IT'S OKAY.
THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE I CAN RELY ON,
SO I'M SURE IT'LL BE OKAY.
IT'S OKAY,
HINA HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG.
AND,
THAT'S RIGHT.
...Ah...
...Her hands...
I'M HERE TOO!

SFX: SHIIIIN... (SILENCE)
シーーン.....
* Echo
Here too!
Here too!
Here too!
Here too!
"Poo-chie"
here!
They're in the middle of something!
Woof
Woof
Woof
Woof
Woof
Woof
Woof
You! Who are you?
Hey! Chibi! Meg!
Kyah! I'm sorry! I'm sorry!
I'm sorry for interrupting
Woof!
He just yelled really loudly
Woof!
Woof!
Bark! Bark!
Woof?
Danger! You're danger out!

SFX: ZUKIIN (STING)
YOU WERE SO LOUD
BUT,
THANK YOU.
A-Akari-san?!
Are you laughing at me?!
WAAAH!
PFFT!
WUFF WUFF WUFF WUFF
Glass Heart
Yip Yip Yip
Woof Woof

COUNTING ON YOU, YOU KNOW?!
IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT,
I'LL REALLY BE
ARE YOU SURE?
YES!
OF COURSE!
I'LL BE THERE IN A HEARTBEAT!!

FINALLY.
WE'VE FINALLY MADE IT TO THIS POINT.
WE EACH JUST NEED ONE MORE WIN, AND THEN WE'LL BE IN THE FINALS!!
Shogi Kifu
Elisabeth, Beloved Dog Deep in Thought
Healthy Tea
JUST ONE MORE WIN, AND THE LEGENDARY CURTAIN WILL RISE!!
BUT..
THERE IS A MIGHTY FOE STANDING IN MY WAY.
LAST YEAR'S... NO,
THE NEWCOMER KING AMONG NEWCOMER KINGS..
THAT MAN!!
DESPITE THE REGULATIONS STATING THAT YOU MUST BE 5-DAN OR LOWER AND LESS THAN 26 YEARS OLD,
HE'S HELD THE SEAT OF NEWCOMER KING FOR 4 YEARS RUNNING.
YAMAZAKI JUNKEI!!
*We bring you a visualisation of his imagination

At this rate, that guy is gonna become "Eternal Newcomer King", you know?!
YEAH, THAT TITLE...
I'M STILL NOT SURE IF THAT WOULD BE AN HONOUR OR DISHONOUR
IT WOULD BE A DISHONOUR, OF COURSE!
A DISHONOUR TO ALL OF US NEWCOMERS!!
TRUE
SORRY
YEAH, YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT
FOR ONCE
DON'T SAY FOR ONCE!
The Irritable Prince of the East
Hachiya Suburu
Personality
"Gets More Annoying the More He Wins"
(Three-Tiered Inversely Proportional Equation)
Attack
"Fast Play/Tongue Clicking"
Favourite Pieces
"Kaku, Hisha"
What a pain.
Tongue clicking, huh...?
Hachiya-san.
I... I see.
HE'S BEEN DOING WELL LATELY, AND THAT'S MADE HIM ALL THE MORE IRRITABLE!
YOU CAN'T LOSE EITHER, OKAY?!!
YOU'RE UP AGAINST THE IRRITABLE PRINCE OF THE EAST!! POUND HIM TO SMITHEREENS, OKAY?!

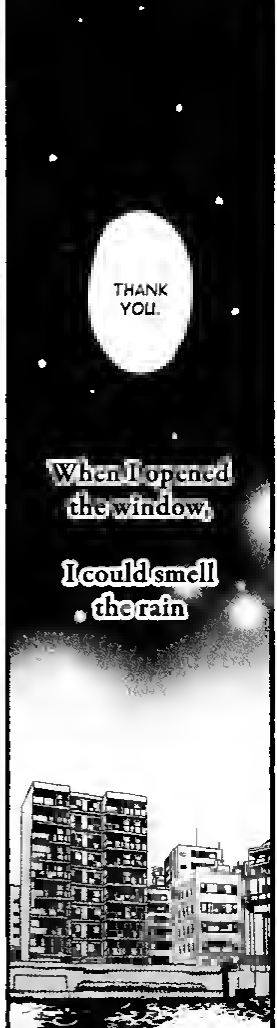
BE CAREFUL, OKAY?! APPARENTLY, THAT GUY HAS HIS EYE ON YOU AND ME AS HIS ENEMIES.
Huh? Why?
WHY, YOU ASK...?
YOU AND I ARE THE "PRINCES OF THE NEXT GENERATION".
SO OF COURSE HE'S AFTER US!
He's afraid his seat as the prince will be taken.
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
PFFT,HAHAHA
DON'T LAUGH, I'M SERIOUS!
It was published in the Shogi World, you know?
THIS IS A VARIATION ON THE GOKINAKA* FROM OUR LAST STUDY GROUP MEETING FOR ☗3-6 FU ☖3-2 GIN ☗3-7 GIN ☖4-4 FU ☗3-5 FU.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT ☖SAME FU ☗4-6 GIN?
AND THE SAME IDEA WITH A KAKU EXCHANGE, HOW ABOUT ☖2-B UMA ☗4-4 KAKU PROMOTION ☗2-2 FU?
UM... AFTER THAT, THEN...
HOW ABOUT ☗6-9 HI? WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
BUT ☖SAME GIN ☗SAME FU PROMOTION ☖4-1 GYOKU WOULD BE TOUGH, RIGHT?
Hmm...
NIKAI-DOU.
.....
NIKAI-DOU
*"GOKINAKA"> A SAFE CENTRALIZED HISHA

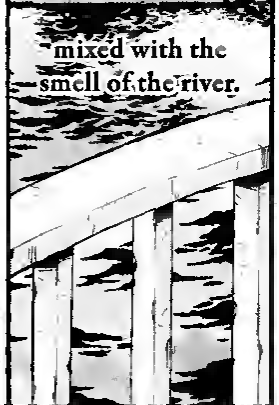
...KIRI-YAMA.
KNOWING YOU, YOU'LL DO FINE.
Aren't you heading to Osaka a day early tomorrow?
SURE.
Go to bed.
It's important to watch your health.
SURE.
GOT IT.

I wonder how
Hina-chan is
doing right now.

I wonder
if she's getting
enough sleep...

BE
COUNTING
ON YOU,
YOU KNOW?!
I'LL
REALLY


THANK
YOU.
When I opened
the window,
I could smell
the rain


mixed with the
smell of the river.

Still,
there's nothing besides this
that I can do.
I want to help,
but I don't know how.
I can't do the things that normal people can do.
Even with my best efforts,
That's right, I want
Anything is fine, even just one aspect. I just want to be someone strong.
and win.
and win
I want to win
So,
to be needed.
Chapter 58 END

Chapter 59

Hachiya

"If it comes down to it,
I'll really be counting
on you, you know?!"
Akari-san's
cheeks and voice,
lit by the suuset
at that time,
became burned
into my memory.

For the first time, I really desired something.
And it wasn't a pure desire...
I don't know if that's a good thing or a bad thing.
But...

Right now,
I want to win.
I want to win,
no matter what.

SFX: NUHH
SFX: DANNN
The person I'm up against is...
The Newcomer Championship semi-finals...
If I win this match, I'll be in the finals...
SFX: DOKA DOKA DOKA
KEEP IT DOWN, HACHI.
SORRY.
SFX: BOSO... (WHISPER...)
SFX: DOKA DOKA DOSAH

In this world,

strength is everything.

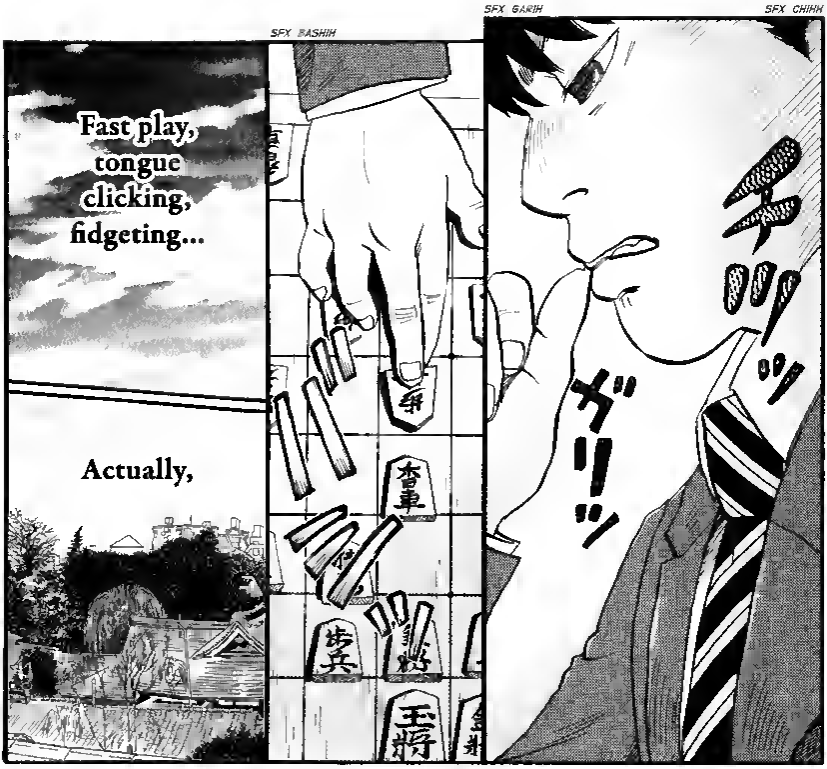
Tongue clicking, fidgeting, fanning himself, he's nicknamed the "Irritable Prince of the East."
SFX: TAN TAN TAN
His forte is fast play, and he has an offensive style that's backed by research.
SFX: CHIH CHIH CHIH
23 years old. Class C, Group 1.
Among the young players in their 20s, people probably have the most hopes for him.

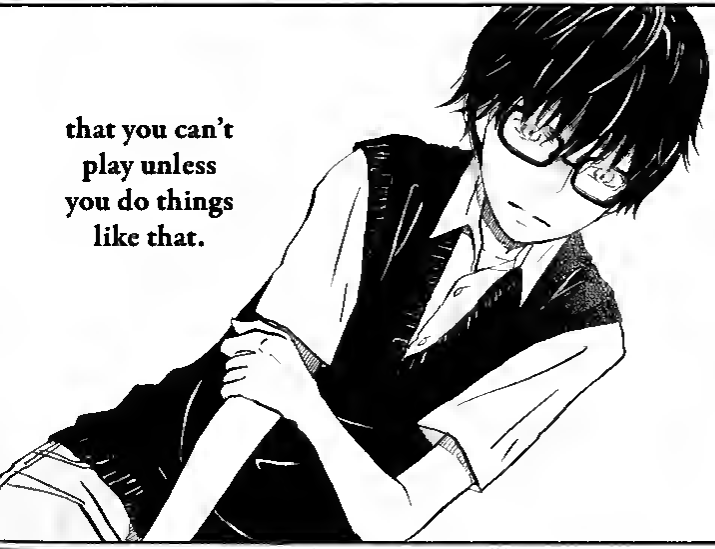
Strength will set you down the right path.

But,
I HOPE WE HAVE A GOOD GAME.
SFX: MUSUH
レイコ
THE TIME IS NOW 10 O'CLOCK.
PLEASE BEGIN
ボ
LET'S HAVE A GOOD GAME.
SFX: BOSO...
that doesn't really... sit well with me...
SFX: BAH
SFX: MUSUH
A spirited central hisha, huh...?
I guess he's gonna come hard and fast...
レイコ
バッ
SFX: BAH

That was fast...
.....
SFX BAH
SFX SUH
I guess I'll respond in kind...
He really does play fast...
Kinda makes you wonder if it's on purpose...
.....
SFX SUH
SFX BAH
SFX TON TON TON TON TON TON
It'll make it harder to concentrate.
I guess I shouldn't stop to focus on that.
And he's loud, too.

His sides sure are solid...
SFX: SUH
In that case, I just need to go from above...
SFX: KAH
SFX: CHIHH
SFX: PASHI
I'll go with 8-6 kei.
Yeah, if you're coming at me, then...
SFX: KAHHN
SFX: KAH
SFX: SUH...


SFX: BASHIH
SFX: GARIH
SFX: CHIHH
Fast play, tongue clicking, fidgeting...
Actually,
SFX: ゲリ!!
歩兵
香車
玉將


that you can't play unless you do things like that.
this may be a type of shogi

SFX: TASHIH
SFX: CHI
SFX: TAN TAN TAN TAN
The freedom must be nice. Just doing whatever you want without reading too deeply into what's around you.
How can he play without thinking how the opponent will defend?
How can he think it's okay to behave this way?
"Like hell he'll make it in time with a move like that."
"An edge fu? He's using an edge fu against an edge gyoku?"
SFX: SUH
SFX: TAN CHIH CHIH TAN
SFX: TAN TON... TAN TAN...
all the way over here...
I feel like I can hear what's going on in his head
Oh, shut up.
Just shut up...
"This guy's so slow, it pisses me off."
"As long as I have a ryuu on this rank, I'll be much faster."

I'll bet he thinks
the world revolves around him.
SFX: PASHI!!
H... He's just... throwing his kaku away...?!

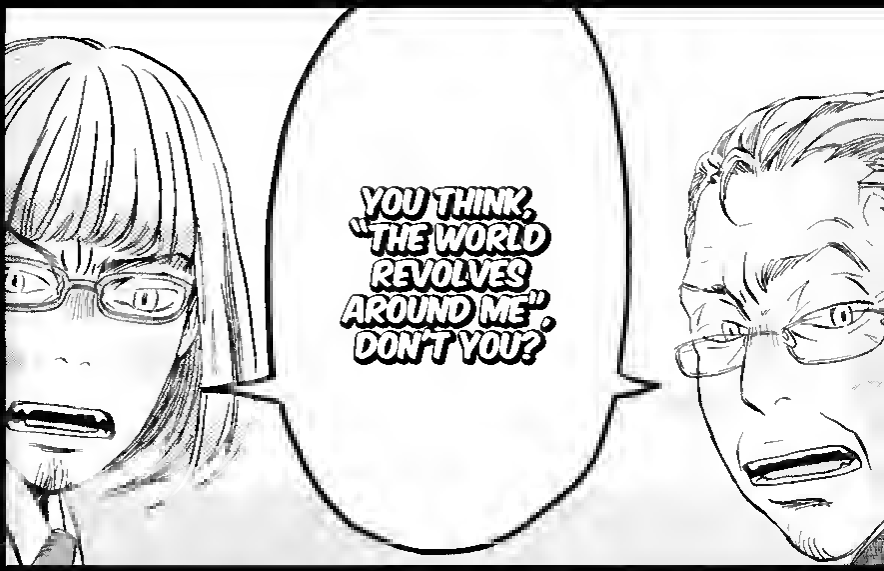
If that happens, then his edge pieces...
His edge pieces are gonna make it in time?!
What the hell?
What the hell is he doing?
But if I do...
I mean, I've gotta take it.
I'll lose my control of the rank.

A faster move...
Isn't there
a faster move?!
Am I getting mated?
Where'd I go wrong?! I didn't see that kaku drop.
Where's the faster move?!
SFX TANN
SFX BOSO (WHISPER)
GEEZ, HE'S LOUD
SFX: CHIH

SFX: GOGOGOGO
KIRI-YAMA!!!
SFX: BOSO... (WHISPER...)
IF YOU'RE GONNA GET THAT BENT OUT OF SHAPE OVER LOSING,
THEN JUST PLAY MORE SLOWLY.
Quiet voice.
SFX: BUN BUN BUN BUBUN (BUZZING)
You totally did it on purpose, didn't you?!
WHO THE HELL WOULD JUST START POKING THE HIVE WITH A ROD?!
LETTING THAT DAMN BEE KEEP BUZZING AROUND!! THINK ABOUT THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU A LITTLE, WHY DON'CHA?!!
YOU... REALLY DID A SHODDY JOB OF REMOVING THAT BEE'S NEST!!
Wait!!
Whaat?!
God-dammit...
FIRST, YOU WRAP IT IN A BAG AND SMOKE THEM OUT AND STUFF. THERE'RE TONS OF THINGS YOU CAN DO, YA KNOW?!
ME?!
SFX: GOGOGO GOGOGO
EDWYS NOTE: THE FIRST KANJI IN HACHIYA'S NAME MEANS "BEE"
ALL YOU CAN DO IS TAKE HIM DOWN BEFORE HE STARTS BUZZING!! GEEZ!
SO EVERYONE'S ALREADY GIVEN UP ON THAT, YOU UNDERSTAND?!
HE'S BEEN BUZZING SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL! YOU CAN'T FIX IT NOW!
THAT BEE IS ALWAYS BUZZING!
SCREEECH
TH-THIS IS MY FAULT?!

Everyone of these guys is buzzing around...
HONESTLY, YOU YOUNG PEOPLE THESE DAYS
BUT KIRIYAMA, YOU'RE TOO DIFFICULT TO UNDER-STAND!!
THE BEE IS WAY TOO EASY TO UNDER-STAND,
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT WITH AGE, TOURNAMENTS ARE TOUGH RIGHT FROM THE START?!
Next term's seed is riding on it!!
THIS IS AN IMPOR-TANT GAME FOR US!!
YOUR ABILITY TO CONCEN-TRATE GOES DOWN AS YOU GET OLDER CONSIDER THAT, WILL YOU?!
I REALLY WANNA MAKE IT PAST THIS ROUND, OKAY?!
Even though I lost!
Huh? Ah ..
Okay
Suddenly getting attacked and not knowing what to do.
SFX: HARA HARA

YOU'RE TOTALLY SIMILAR.
I'M NOTHING LIKE--
PLEASE DON'T COMPARE ME TO HIM
YOU'RE PRETTY SIMILAR ON THE INSIDE AFTER ALL
YOU REALLY SHOULD LIVE A LIFE THAT'S EASIER TO UNDER-STAND, LIKE THE BEE


YOU THINK, "THE WORLD REVOLVES AROUND ME", DON'T YOU?

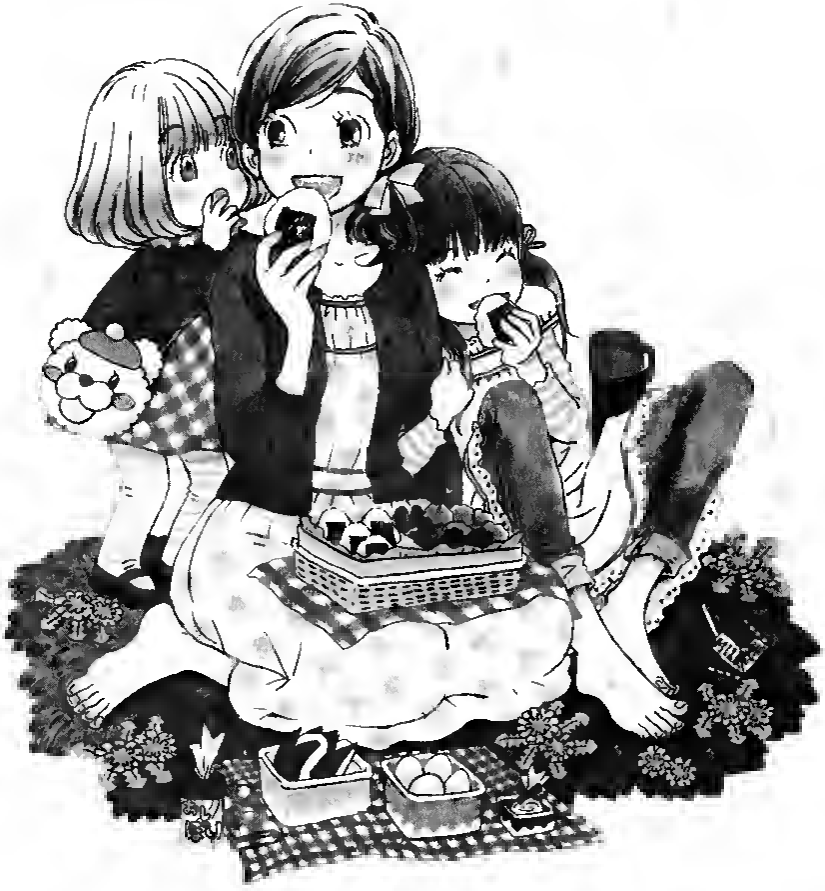
What did
you say?!

SFX BORI BORI (SCRATCH SCRATCH)
Keep a level head ☆ You've got plenty of time still to go with the bee.
See ya!
Well!!!, Kiriyama, good luuck.
BETTER GET GOING
OKAAAY, THEN...
Sand
SFX SAKA SAKA SAKA
SFX SLITAAANN

Tongue clicking, fidgeting, arrogance,
despite wilfully doing all that, Hachiya Subaru (23) 5-dan is unexpectedly a well-loved character.
postmortem analysis, why don't we...?
Okay, let's have a nice and thorough
remains of food
SFX: GIRI GIRI GIRI (TEETH GRINDING) GOGOGOGO
KYAA AAAH!!
SFX: MOJI MOJI MOJIRI (CHEWING)
he yelled, "It just doesn't make sense", one million times ☆
With the world revolving around them,
He made him stick around late into the night at a family restaurant for their postmortem analysis.
And even after that, the bee hung around Kiriyama.
We are NOT similar.
Absolutely not!
Chapter 59 END
SFX: PYUUU
SFX: TAN TAN

Chapter 60

Midday Moon



3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

SFX GATAAANNN
What's that homeroom teacher's name?!
WHERE?! TO THAT MIDDLE SCHOOL!!
I'M GONNA GO!
THAT'S ENOUGH!
ガターンッッ
WAAAH
SFX KUWAHH
WHAT THE HELL?!
SENSEI!! PLEASE DON'T GO ON A RAMPAGE!!
KYAA
PLEASE DON'T RAISE YOUR VOICE
HOW AWFUL THAT TEACHER IS!!
JUST FROM HEARING ABOUT ALL OF THIS, I CAN TELL
IT'S CLEAR WHY THE BIG SISTER IS SO WORRIED!!
GAAAH
SFX YUSA YUSA (SWAYING)

I SHOULD REALLY JUST GO!! I MEAN, LET ME GO, KIRIYAMA!
AS A FELLOW TEACHER, I'VE GOT A THING OR TWO I WANNA SAY TO THAT HOMEROOM TEACHER!
Roooar
SENSEI! PLEASE CALM DOWN!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING. I MEAN, I...
I WANT TO GO, TOO!!
BUT,
I DON'T HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE TO HANDLE IT!
I WOULDN'T BE OF ANY USE!
I MEAN, WITH ME, I WOULD ALWAYS JUST ISOLATE MYSELF AND PRETEND EVERYTHING WAS FINE.
I WOULDN'T PUT UP ANY SORT OF FIGHT I'D JUST PUT UP WITH IT, GO WITH THE FLOW,
AND ESCAPE INTO SHOGI.
SO, I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA HOW
OR ANY WAY TO HELP IN A TIME LIKE THIS!!

THEN,
SHE COULD USE THAT FOR SOMETHING... SO I WORKED REALLY HARD AT IT.
IF I COULD JUST EARN SOME MONEY FROM MATCHES...
SO I THOUGHT
FROM A TOTAL STRANGER LIKE ME
BUT THE PEOPLE OF THAT FAMILY WOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN MONEY
SFX: BISHIH
OW!!
PLEASE LEND ME YOUR WISDOM!!
I'LL TREAT YOU TO OOEN OR YAKINIKU OR WHATEVER YOU WANT!!
SO SENSEI, PLEASE TELL ME!
KIRIYAMA!!
LUNK-HEAD!
YOU

SFX: SHUUU
BUT...
SOMETIMES YOU SAY ANNOYING THINGS LIKE HOW YOU MAKE MORE THAN ME, BUT...
YOU'VE DONE GREAT!
Quit acting like an office worker!
"I'll buy you a drink later, okay?☆"
"Would ya do me a favour?"
ピコピコピコ
※Can't manage to articulate anything
SFX: NISHIIHA
AND I'M A TEACHER!
DON'T MAKE LIGHT OF TEACHERS, OKAY?!
THIS IS A SCHOOL,
YOU'RE STILL JUST A SECOND YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT,
THE HEAD TEACHER IN CHARGE OF HER YEAR OR THE TEACHER OF A DIFFERENT SUBJECT.
FIRST, I THINK HINA-CHAN SHOULD TRY TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO TALK TO.
OKAY...

THE HOME-ROOM TEACHER ISN'T THE ONLY ONE IN THE SCHOOL.
SO,
WITH RESPECT TO MEETING THE OTHER SIDE'S PARENTS...
IF TALKING TO HER DOESN'T WORK, SHE CAN JUST TRY TALKING TO OTHER TEACHERS.
BY THE LOOK OF THINGS, I DON'T THINK IT'D COME TO THAT.
BUT IF IT DOES, I SUPPOSE HINA-CHAN'S BIG SISTER WOULD HAVE TROUBLE FACING THEM ON HER OWN.
THEIR MOTHER PASSED AWAY, HUH?
SO, WHAT ABOUT THE FATHER? WHAT'S HE DOING?

.....
WELL...

IT'S NOT A VERY PLEASANT SUBJECT.
SO I'LL PUT IT SIMPLY

The way she said it,

it was as if it meant nothing to her.

I realised that Akari-san's heart was adrift somewhere,

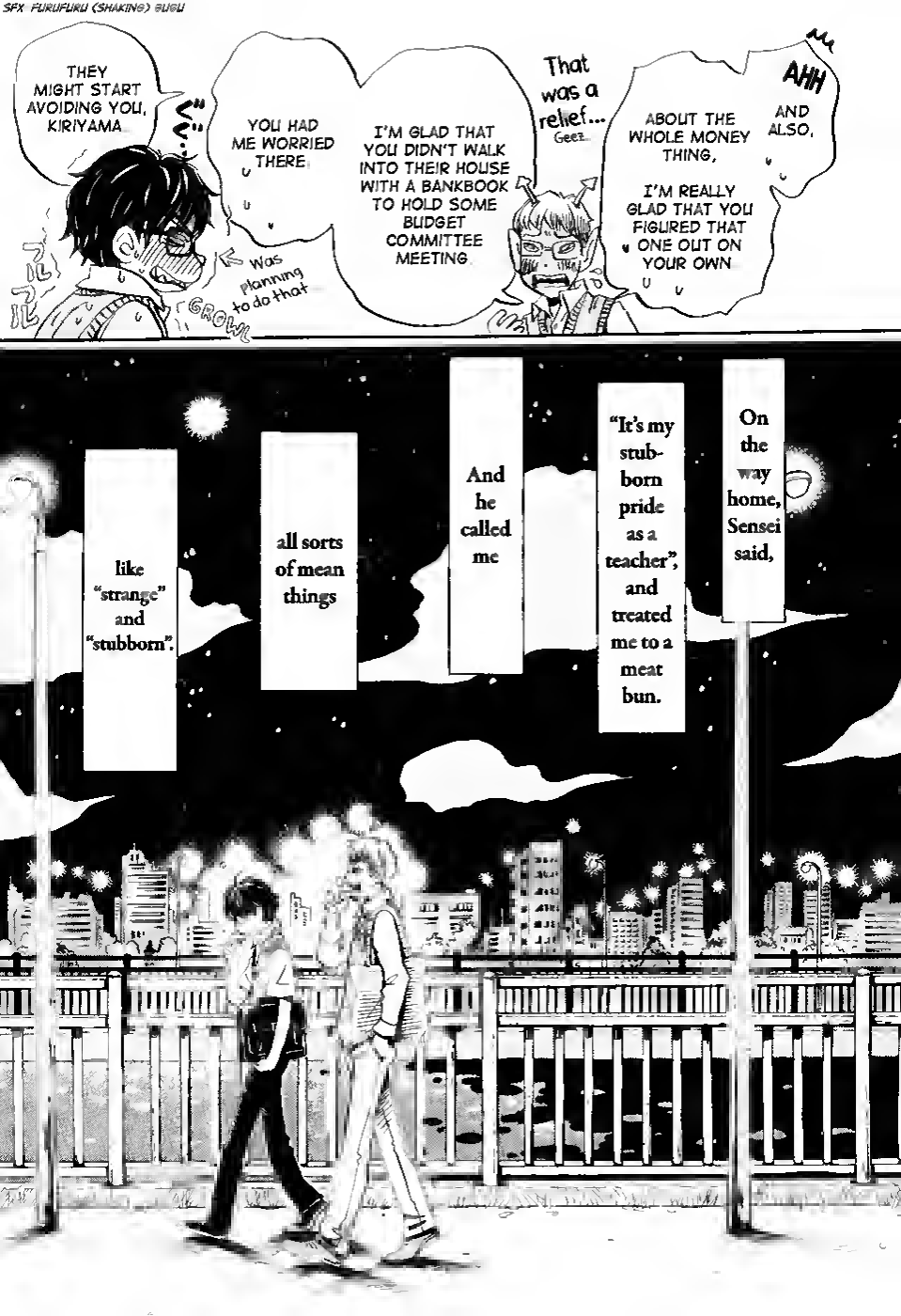
unable to find a place to settle.

It wasn't that it no longer meant anything to her.

It was still just the only way she could talk about it.

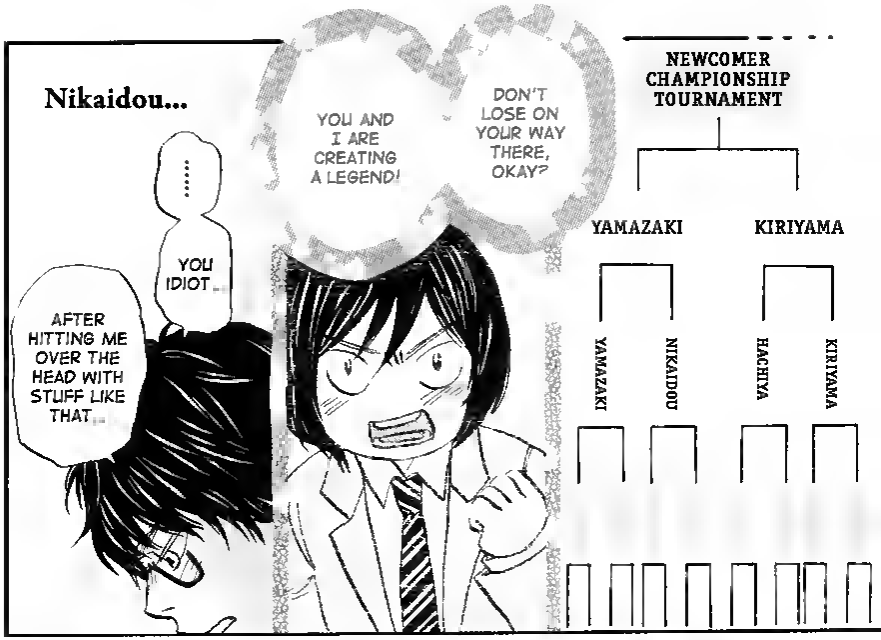
—IT'S LOOKING MORE AND MORE LIKE I'M JUST GONNA HAVE TO GO.
UMMM...
HOW EXACTLY DID YOU SKEW THAT TO COME TO THAT CONCLUSION?!
AND JUST WHO ARE YOU PLANNING TO SAY YOU ARE WHEN YOU MARCH IN THERE?!
HUUUH?!
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?! THAT I'M HINA-SAN'S FORMER HOMEROOM TEACHER!
SO BASICALLY A "TOTAL STRANGER" THEN?!
HAVE YOU ALREADY BECOME A "MONSTER TEACHER"?!
ゴゴゴゴ
IF THE PEOPLE I'M UP AGAINST ARE MONPARS,
(※An abbreviation of Monster Parents)
THEN OUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO SEND IN A MONTEACH!
(※An abbreviation of Monster Teacher)
NEITHER ONE SOUNDS VERY GOOD AT THIS POINT... UH, AREN'T YOU GOING A LITTLE OVERBOARD?!
(※For being a total stranger!!)
Ain't that right?! Hell yeah it is, god-dammit!!!
WAAH!
Help mee!
しゅっ
SFX: KUNAI

SFX: FURUFURU (SHAKING) BUBU


THEY MIGHT START AVOIDING YOU, KIRIYAMA
YOU HAD ME WORRIED THERE
Was planning to do that
GROWL
I'M GLAD THAT YOU DIDN'T WALK INTO THEIR HOUSE WITH A BANKBOOK TO HOLD SOME BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
That was a relief... Geez
ABOUT THE WHOLE MONEY THING,
I'M REALLY GLAD THAT YOU FIGURED THAT ONE OUT ON YOUR OWN
AHH
AND ALSO,
like "strange" and "stubborn".
all sorts of mean things
And he called me
"It's my stub-born pride as a teacher", and treated me to a meat bun.
On the way home, Sensei said,

And then he patted me on the back and said,
"I want to be needed".
"So I want to be stronger."
What's so wrong about that?
All you've got to do
is to do the things you can do, one at a time.

. Take a deep breath,
and move one step at a time...
he said.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
HEY, KIRI-YAMA.
THAT'S THREE WINS, ISN'T IT? YOU'RE DOING PRETTY WELL FOR YOURSELF.
AH. YOKO-MIZO-SAN.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I HEARD YOUR OPPONENT IN THE NEWCOMER CHAMPION-SHIP FINALS IS GOING TO BE YAMAZAKI JUNKE!
GOOD LUCK.
DO IT FOR NIKAIDOU, TOO.
YEAH.


Nikaidou...
YOU AND I ARE CREATING A LEGEND!
DON'T LOSE ON YOUR WAY THERE, OKAY?
NEWCOMER CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT
YAMAZAKI
KIRIYAMA
YAMAZAKI
NIKAIDOU
HACHIYA
KIRIYAMA
.....
YOU IDIOT...
AFTER HITTING ME OVER THE HEAD WITH STUFF LIKE THAT...

SO,
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH NIKAIDOU?
IS HE NOT COMING BACK FROM OSAKA FOR A WHILE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
HE'S GOING TO BE STAYING AT THE OSAKA CENTRAL FIRST HOSPITAL FOR A WHILE...
JUST SO THEY CAN OBSERVE HIM FOR A BIT
APPARENTLY, MOVING HIM WOULD POSE SOMEWHAT OF A PROBLEM.

SHIMADA-SAN.
...WHAT
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
KIRI-YAMA.
将棋会館
将棋会館
Chapter 60 END

WHAT KIND OF SHOGI COMPETITION IS THE "NEWCOMER KING CHAMPIONSHIP" FROM THIS MANGA?!

The Newcomer King Championship is a traditional (now on its 42nd year) shogi competition sponsored by Shinbun Akahata. Just as its name suggests, it is a competition for young shogi players. And becoming the champion of this tournament is said to be a gateway to becoming a first-class shogi player.

The age limit has changed several times, but currently only players 26 and below are allowed. No one 6 dan and above qualifies to enter either. There are special exceptions for this tournament which allow amateurs and members of the Shourei kai to participate, as well as up to four female players. Since only players younger than 26 are allowed, this means younger female players who are not at the top have a chance as well.

In last year's (2010's) Newcomer King Championship, there was some commotion. The winner was Abe Kenjirou 4-dan from Yamagata Prefecture. This was a reasonable result, but the real shock was that an amateur, Kaku Hiroyoshi-san, was the runner up. The final match is three games long and with one win and one loss each, they entered a final tiebreaker. Just one more win and an amateur would have become the Newcomer King.

The year before that, the present King, Hirose Akihito won. Going down the list in order, the previous winners were Satou Amahiko, Murayama Yasuaki, and Itadani Tesurou, all young players with hopeful futures. The year before that, the winner was Watanabe Akira Ryuuou.

In this manga, Yamazaki Jyunkei-kun has won the championship four times, but there is no real-life player who has ever won four times. The highest record is three times by Moriyasu Hidemitsu 9-dan, Moriuchi Toshiyuki 9 dan, and Fuji Takeshi 9-dan. By the way, Yoshiharu Meijin only won it once. It is believed that this is because the champions frequently end up taking other titles and so become disqualified from participating again.

The title of "Eternal Newcomer King"... I'm not sure whether it exists or not. But I doubt there will ever emerge a five time winner of the championship. It's likely that before anyone can win five times, they'll be disqualified from entering for some other reason.

Also, a special characteristic of this competition is an account of all the games running in a newspaper. For newcomers, receiving a high enough placement to be featured in a newspaper is very difficult, which is part of what makes this competition popular.

By the way, I don't have any experience winning this championship. I had a rather brazen appearance ever since I was young so my senpais always used to tease me about how I was unsuited to be Newcomer King. But looking back on it now that I can no longer participate, it seems like that was a missed opportunity.

Chapter 61

Adventures

Looking at both adults' faces, which seemed to say, "Darn it",
将棋会館
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I understood.
NIKAIDOU... IN THE HOSPITAL...?
WHAT HAPPENED?
I was the only one
who didn't know...
将棋会館

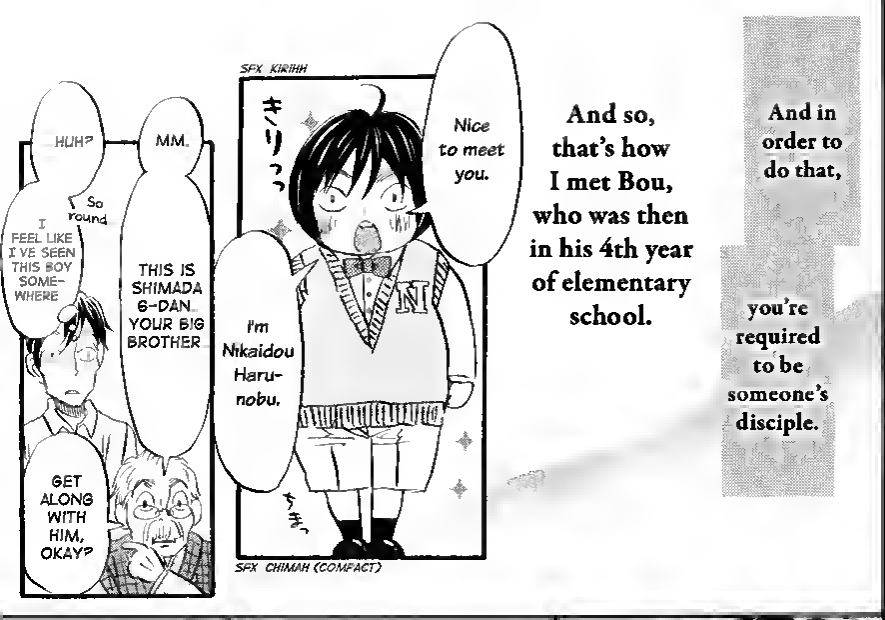
PLEASE WAIT!
COME ON, SHIMADA, LET'S GO GET A DRINK.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
AND THE STRAIN FROM THE NEWCOMER CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINALS SEEMS TO HAVE CAUSED A BAD EPISODE..
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN SICKLY.
IT'S NOTHING MAJOR.
KIRIYAMA.
.....
HE CAN'T AFFORD TO STAY LONG AT THE HOSPITAL.
HE HAS TO COME BACK, RIGHT? HE'S GOT THE RANK-DECIDING-MATCHES!
THEN HE COULD JUST GET IN HIS LIMOUSINE WITH THE BED IN IT OR SOMETHING.
IF THIS IS JUST ONE OF HIS USUAL HEALTH PROBLEMS,
IS IT THAT BAD?

I HOPE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT MUCH
THEN THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME REASON FOR THAT, RIGHT?
IF YOU ASK AND I DON'T ANSWER,
To be honest, I'd been vaguely aware of it.
Hanaoka-san, who would never leave bis side.
The lightly coloured, beautifully dyed bento boxes.
I would always see lots of medicine in his bag.
To be honest, I never could...
bring myself to ask...

IN THAT CASE...
that Nikaidou didn't want me to ask.
It was bad enough
I SEE.....
I knew that ever since we were kids...
COULD I ASK YOU
WHAT THE ENTIRETY OF THAT REASON IS?
将棋会
GOOD LUCK WITH THE REST
SHIMADA, I'M HEADING HOME

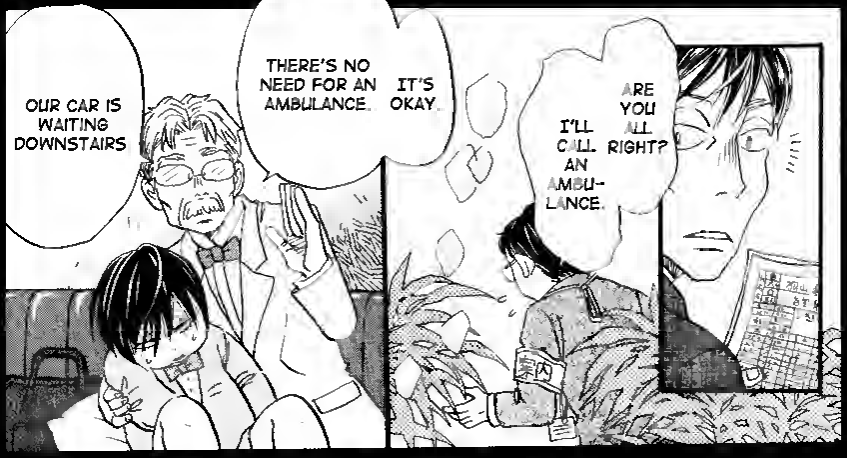
KIRIYAMA.
HOW ABOUT WE GO GET SOME FOOD?
After that,
Shimada-san told me all about Nikaidou.
About his little brotber disciple.

HUH?
YOU'RE TAKING ON ANOTHER DISCIPLE?
MM.
BUT SENSEI, YOU ALWAYS SAID THAT
YOU WERE DONE WITH DISCIPLES AFTER ME, DIDN'T YOU?
AND YOU HAD THAT HEALTH SCARE LAST YEAR
SO WHY NOW...?
I JUST FOUND A KID WHO WAS SO DARN INTERESTING
WELL, YA SEEEE,
In order to become a shogi pro, you must first enter the Shoureikai.


HUH?
MM.
So round
I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN THIS BOY SOMEWHERE
THIS IS SHIMADA 6-DAN. YOUR BIG BROTHER
GET ALONG WITH HIM, OKAY?
SFX KIRIIH
キリッ
Nice to meet you.
I'm Nikaidou Haru-nobu.
SFX CHIMAH (COMPACT)
And so, that's how I met Bou, who was then in his 4th year of elementary school.
And in order to do that,
you're required to be someone's disciple.

WHAT'S WITH THAT PERFECTLY ROUND KID?
MAKING HIS GRANDPA CARRY A BENTO
I HEARD HE DROVE UP IN AN AMAZING CAR.
GROSSSS.
I'd seen him when I was working as a guest lecturer at a children's tournament.
I had a recollection of that boy.
.....
HE WON'T BE AROUND FOR LONG.
HE'S JUST A RICH KID LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO

SFX: MOGU MOGU (CHEW CHEW)
SFX: MOGU MOGU (CHEW CHEW)
HE COULD BUY ALL THE MANGA OR VIDEO GAMES HE WANTED.
...WHY WOULD HE GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO ENTER THIS WORLD?
As someone who grew up poor, I was jealous of him immediately.
A DELUXE BENTO, HUH...?
SIGH...
RICH KIDS.
もぐもぐ
Be sure to chew each bite 30 times, all right?
Mm.
もぐもぐ
SFX: FACHI FACHI FACHI FACHI (APPLAUSE)
SO THAT RICH KID LOST IN THE SEMIS?
HMM...
HE FOUGHT A LOT HARDER THAN I EXPECTED.
HMMM
SFX: KUSU...HOH...
From Suginami Ward, Tokyo we have Kiriyama Rei-kun.
The finals will now begin
Thank you all for waiting
GAMES AND COMPUTERS WOULD BE MORE FUN FOR HIM
WELL, I DOUBT HE'LL LAST LONG ANYHOW
SFX: POW
WAS THIS GAME REALLY PLAYED BY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS?
AND 185 MOVES...
A POWER BATTLE WITH BOTH HAVING STATIC GYOKUS...
...WHAT IS THIS?
I was surprised when I saw the kifu.



From the calm way that old man dealt with the situation,

I caught a glimpse of the boy's long battle with illness.

Shogi is an honest path. You won't get better unless you study hard.

Yes, what we have here

is the kifu of an individual

who had easily thrown away the idea of a fun childhood.

Wh...
Whoa
It's huuuge
He never even had a childhood
No, that's not right...
to throw away
in the first place...
HE ASKS, "IS IT OKAY THAT THEY'RE OLD?"
HERE, THESE ARE FROM HIM
WOW!!
First edition with obi-belt
BOOK
HE CAN'T MOVE RIGHT NOW DUE TO NERVE PAIN
I CAME HERE IN PLACE OF OUR TEACHER
AHH, IT'S OKAY, LIE DOWN
Excited about seeing one of the pro shogi players he admires
SH-
SHIMADA 6-DAN!!

And so, I started playing games with him every once in a while.
He would always try his hardest, and though I would defeat him, he always made me work for it.
When I asked, "How about a game of shogi?"
A tinge of red coloured his bluish black face.
CAN WE?!
But then one day,
I accidentally hurt his feelings.
BOU...
PLEASE DON'T GO EASY ON ME LIKE THAT!
I'd done it because of his deteriorating condition and the successive losses.
I'd wanted to give him some courage.
IF I GET THE "WEAK PERSON" TREATMENT IN SHOGI, TOO,
THEN WHERE ELSE CAN I GO?!

He pretty much couldn't get into fights, sports, or play with friends at all.

He had strict dietary restrictions.

To prevent his condition from worsening, he just had to put up with it and spend every day keeping his breathing easy.

BOU, I'M SORRY

I WILL NEVER

SOMETHING LIKE THAT AGAIN

His illness was considered incurable,

so it was something that would stick with him for his whole life.

The only place

where he could be the hero and run wild

was on this board

of 81 squares.

KIRIYAMA

THIS IS THE KIFU FOR TODAY'S SEMI-FINALS MATCH

ANIJA
PLEASE DON'T TELL KIRIYAMA ABOUT MY ILLNESS
IF I WANT TO BE STRONG, I NEED A RIVAL.
HE DOESN'T REALISE IT HIMSELF, BUT HE'S A KIND PERSON. HE'S ALSO INSECURE.
IF HE FINDS OUT, I'M SURE HE WOULD FALTER...
IN THAT CASE, I...
There were two pages of kifu...
The first game was one in which they fully used their available time.
He was in an inferior position, but he persisted through and through. Just when he had turned things around,
the opponent caused a draw by repetition of moves.
As a result, there was a do-over game...
CAN'T GET ANY STRONGER...
In their one-minute shogi,
the 138 moves wrung his soul dry...

BWYS NOTE: ONE-MINUTE SHOGI MEANS A PLAYER HAS ONE MINUTE TO MAKE EACH MOVE. THIS OCCURS ONCE A PLAYER HAS USED UP HIS/HER AVAILABLE TIME.

BLACK YAMAZAKI JUNKEI
WHITE NIKAIDOU HARUNOBU
KIRI-YAMA,
CAN YOU STILL
DO SOMETHING THIS MERCILESS TO NIKAIDOU?

SFX TSU
!!
I'M GOING
TO THE FINALS.
.....
YEAH.

The Newcomer Championship Finals were
in one week,
at the Kansai Shogi Association...
AW, DARN.
IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN.
HOW 'BOUT WE RUN?
AH WELL. THE STATION IS CLOSE BY...
OKAY.
As we ran through the rain
which resembled thin silver threads...

Heading towards the *aspiration point*,
he pushes forward like a fireball...
While there was *doubt*, *hesitation*, *faltering*...
Still, he believed in "what he'd done thus far".
It was just like...
—I thought back on Nikaidou's kifu.
an adventure novel.
Chapter 61 END
BLACK YAMAZAKI JUNKEI
WHITE NIKAIDOU HARUNOBU

WHAT KIND OF RULE IS DRAW BY REPETITION...?!

Shogi is a game in which the goal is to make each move in a progression towards checkmating the opponent's gyoku. But occasionally the same sequence of turns can repeat over and over, resulting in no progress being made for either side. No matter how much the two play, they just keep going in circles and can't come to a conclusion. So in this case the game is re-played due to "draw by repetition". In the official rules, the same four moves repeating in one game is considered a draw by repetition.

When a draw by repetition occurs, the game is replayed after a 30 minute break with the sente and gote switched. The feeling of fatigue you get from something you've been working on since 10 AM to suddenly be thrown out is considerable.

This also frequently occurs in the endgame when a considerable amount of play has taken place. This is to avoid a draw by repetition in the opening in so the sente, which has a slight advantage, does not get switched to being the gote.

On the other hand, players just starting out as gote may attempt to force a draw by repetition to gain that advantage. This is a tactic commonly used on the pro level.

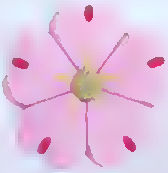
It frequently happens in the end game, often late at night, and re-playing a game in the middle of the night requires an enormous amount of emotional stamina. Also, the available time given to each player decreases so the moves come quite rapidly. Perhaps because of the fatigue they cause, there is an aphorism in the shogi world that states "There are no famous games that occurred as redos due to draws by repetition".

Draws by repetition occur a fair amount; they're not all that rare. Though how frequently they occur depends on the style of play, they happen for most pro players once or twice a year. For some players it's less: only once every few years or so.
By the way, I'm the type it happens frequently to. In the last six months I've played three such games and I came home after midnight all three times. Now that I think about it, a long time ago I played a game where I ended up coming home at 6 AM. The match had lasted a full 20 hours and I remember the sky being light out when it ended.

6 AM was the latest a match ever ran, but in rank-deciding matches, it is common to have draws by repetition that end matches at 2 AM or 3 AM. For night owl players, this could be seen as advantageous. And as one might expect, younger players with more stamina have a larger tendency to win these games. There's an aphorism in the shogi world that "Draw by repetition gives the advantage to the youth".

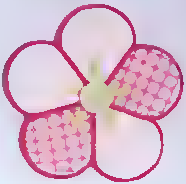
This is a bit of a digression, but in the world of Go, a world very similar to the world of shogi, there is no draw by repetition. Based on the rules of the game, they cannot occur. There is a rule called "triple ko" which can cause a draw, but these are rare. In some years, it does not occur in a single pro game, so Go players can live without having to endure the hell that is replaying games due to draws by repetition, which I could not be more jealous of. My wife is a pro go player, so I'm always boasting "how great draws by repetition are" to her.

BE WITH YOU SCANS NOTES



PAGE 134

Oshi-e ("pressed pictures") is a traditional Japanese craft that involves placing a piece of cloth over cotton padding, and then stitching it to add detail and dimension. Mass-produced items like books are most likely to use pre printed fabric, but high-end art pieces are assembled using carefully chosen scraps of silk brocade.



Chapter 62

Kingdom ①

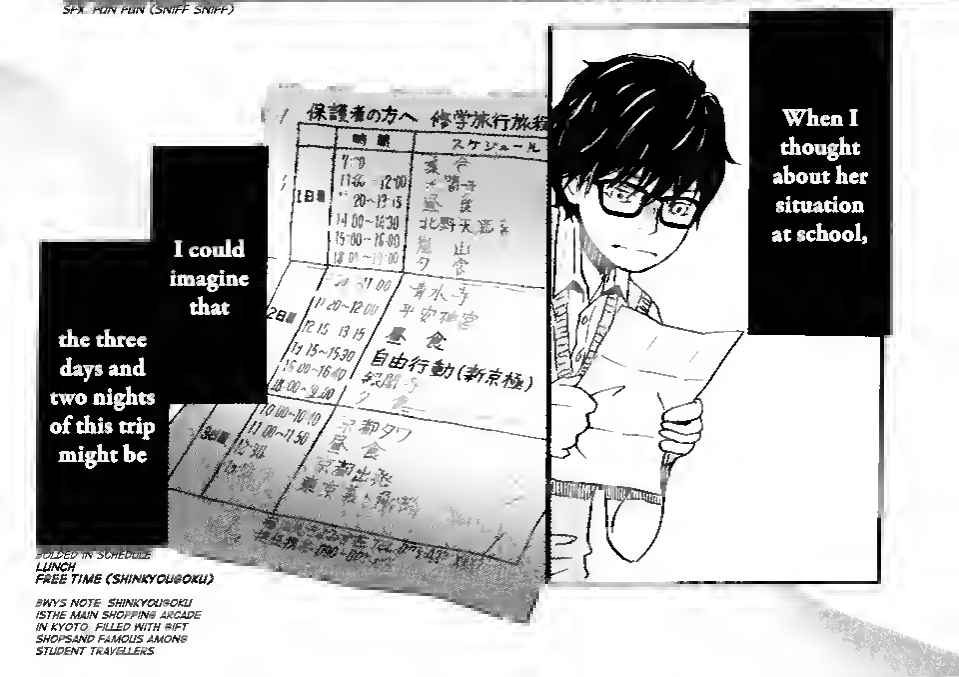
RHYS NOTE: KATSU IS PORK CUTLET AND KATSUDON IS PORK CUTLET RICE BOWL. IN JAPANESE, "CUTLET" AND "WIN" ARE HOMOPHONES

SFX: MOKKU MOKKU (CHEW CHEW)
AH,
OKAY
MAYBE WE SHOULD GET THE BATH READY NOW SINCE YOU'RE GETTING UP EARLY
YOU NEED TO BE AT SCHOOL AT 7, RIGHT?
HINA IS GETTING ON THE SHINKANSEN TOMORROW AT 8
SO YOU'RE HEADING TO OSAKA TOMORROW?
YEAH
THEY HAVE A FEW ROOMS WE CAN STAY IN AT THE KANSAI SHOGI ASSOCIATION BUILDING
SO I'LL BE STAYING THERE
YOU HAVE TO TRAVEL IN ADVANCE FOR THESE SORTS OF THINGS, RIGHT?
Right, Hina-chan has her school trip starting tomorrow.
She's going to Kyoto for three days and two nights...
OKAY!
BUY ME A SOUVENIR, OKAY, HINA-CHAN☆

.....
THANKS FOR THE MEAL.
SFX: PATA
OH? WHAT'S WRONG?
THAT'S ALL YOU'RE HAVING?
I KIND OF...
I DUNNO MY TUMMY HURTS...
ARE YOU OKAY? MAYBE IT WAS TOO GREASY...
THIS IS UNUSUAL. YOU DON'T GET TUMMY ACHES MUCH.
SFX: KYU
DO YOU WANT SOME MEDICINE?
HINA-CHAN,
DO YOU THINK...
...OKAY

MAYBE IF WE WARM YOUR BACK A BIT, IT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER...
YES, LAY ON YOUR RIGHT SIDE...
THAT MAYBE
IT'S YOUR STOMACH THAT'S HURTING?
MM.
THANK YOU...
Is she feeling down?
Is Hina-chan okay?

SFX: PUN PUN (SNIFF SNIFF)


When I thought about her situation at school,
I could imagine that
the three days and two nights of this trip might be
保護者の方へ 修学旅行旅程
昼食
自由行動(新京極)

FOLDED IN SCHEDULE:
LUNCH
FREE TIME (SHINKYOUGOKU)

BWYS NOTE: SHINKYOUGOKU IS THE MAIN SHOPPING ARCADE IN KYOTO. FILLED WITH GIFT SHOPS AND FAMOUS AMONG STUDENT TRAVELLERS

ARE YOU OKAY?
ABOUT KYOTO.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO GO.
something pretty difficult...
NO,
I'LL GO.
I FEEL LIKE...
I'VE GOT TO GO.
OTHERWISE,
EVEN AFTER I BECOME AN ADULT...
AND YEARS TO COME.
FOR YEARS
I FEEL LIKE I'LL REGRET IT

Back then,
Takahashi-kun, who had said in that moment, "I understand"...
I WANTED TO KNOW THAT I DIDN'T RUN AWAY.
SO,
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO SAY THIS,
BUT YOU WANTED TO ELIMINATE THAT KIND OF FEELING RIGHT?
HINA-CHAN,
I'M GONNA WIN, OKAY?
I'M
DEFINITELY GONNA WIN.

right in front of me,
Now,
Nikaidou, who had kept playing until he collapsed...
I'LL DEFINITELY
Hina-chan...
COME BACK VICTORIOUS.
so that they can win their right
YOU CAN ORDER ANYTHING
.....
They're fighting.
AND EVERYTHING YOU WANT.
THANK YOU, KIRIYAMA-KUN.
OKAY.
Everyone is fighting
WE CAN ALL GO TO THE SWEETS SHOP TOGETHER.
SO, WHEN YOUR TUMMY FEELS BETTER,

SFX: DANNN
SFX: PIPPIP!
SFX: PIPPIP!
SFX: TOTON TATAN...
HUH?
WHERE AM I?
SFX: TATAN TOTON
to their one little place in the world.
SFX: KASA
Ah, right.
Osaka...
—I

SFX: PAPAAAA BURORO...
The Newcomer Championship is a shogi competition for players
26 or under, 5-dan or under.
here
came
to fight.
For the finals, each player has 5 hours of available time,
and it's all settled in one game.
The match will probably last until nightfall.
JUST TO BE SAFE, I'D BETTER BUY BREAKFAST, LUNCH
AND PLENTY OF DRINKS
IS KIRIYAMA COMING HERE TODAY?
YEAH, HE'S THE GUY WHO MADE OUR BEE CRY, RIGHT?
IT'S A PITY WHAT HAPPENED WITH THAT RICH KID FROM THE OTHER DAY,
BUT YAMAZAKI-SENPAI WAS PRETTY DESPERATE TOO
YEP
I MEAN, HE'S GOT THE NEVER-BEFORE-CLAIMED TITLE OF ETERNAL NEWCOMER KING RIDIN' ON THE LINE

Thinking back on it now...
ALL JUNKEI-SENPAI DID WAS FIGHT THE PROPER WAY.
NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF STATE YOUR OPPONENT IS IN,
THE PROPER ETIQUETTE IS TO TRY TO DEFEAT HIM WITH ALL YOU'VE GOT!!
WELL, I CAN'T BLAME HIM.
MANAGING YOUR HEALTH IS A PART OF SHOGI, TOO.
I wonder how much emotion Nikaidou felt
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE IT IF YOU'RE NOT THINKING THAT?
YOU'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO BE IN THE TITLE MATCH.
when he said those words...

SFX: DONN
SFX: ZAH
SFX: CHIIN CHIIN (TICK TICK)
SFX: KITO KITO
KIRIYAMA REI
YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT PLACE,
THE NEWCOMER CHAMPI-ONSHIP FINALS...
Inadvertently being rude

SFX: PASHIHH
SFX: PACHIH
I'M
YAMA-ZAKI JUNKEI
It's quiet.
The air quivers only at the sound of the pieces.
SFX: PASHIHH

He's solid as a rock.
Looks like he's drawing this into a battle of attrition...
Straight to a ranging hisha anaguma, huh?
SFX KAHH
As I was playing,
the word "why"
kept swirling around in my head.

So why
did you drag the game into a draw by repetition?
I could feel it when I saw the kifu...
You had plenty of play options left, didn't you?
"Because I didn't have a mating move."
Those people from before said you had "fought the proper way"...
ALL JUNKEI-SENPAI DID WAS FIGHT THE PROPER WAY.
NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF STATE YOUR OPPONENT IS IN, THE PROPER ETIQUETTE IS TO TRY TO DEFEAT HIM WITH ALL YOU'VE GOT!!
MANAGING YOUR HEALTH IS A PART OF SHOGI, TOO.
WELL, I CAN'T BLAME HIM

If putting the burden on other people is "proper",
rather than conquering your own problem of being able to read far enough ahead,
then I have only one thing to say to that—

Screw you.

Chapter 62 END

March Comes in Like a Lion

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY UMINO CHIKA
PUBLISHED BY HAKUSENSHA (2011/07)
VOLUME 6 ISBN 978-4-592-14516-5

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TRANSLATED BY KEWL0210
CLEANED & TYPESET BY CHARA, LABRADOR, & KEWL0210
QC BY KIWIISH

Chapter 63

Kingdom ②

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion
Chi ca Umino

Two eyeballs in the dark,

examining things in my direction.

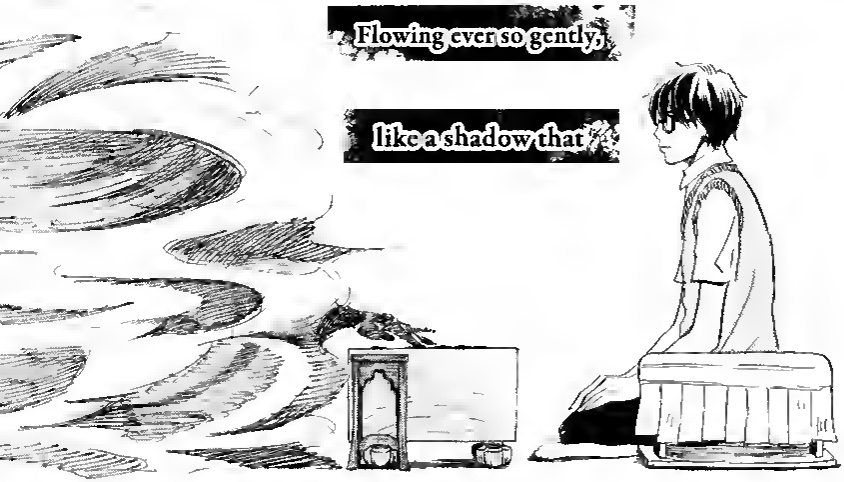
Just silently

waiting for my "mistake".

Waiting with bated breath for the moment I play a wrong move.

Flowing ever so gently,

like a shadow that's

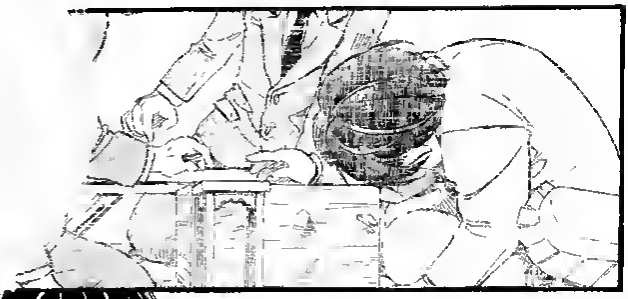


you cannot shake off.

Well, then
I'll show you.
See if I make a mistake or not.
And I'll blow that sludge clear out of here, too!!
SFX BAH
QUIT TRYING TO ACT COOL, KIRIYAMAAAA!!

SFX: BUKH
DON'T JUST ATTACK,
YOU'VE GOTTA DEFEND, TOO!
IF YOU REALLY WANNA WIN,
THEN HOLD OUT!!!

OKAY, RIVAL?
I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH YOU.
I'VE FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO YOU, KIRIYAMA.
CAN YOU HEAR ME, KIRIYAMA?


VALUE YOUR OWN SHOGI—

VALUE YOUR OWN SELF MORE!!

SFX PACHI
SFX kara...
カラ…

I really never
WHILE SHE WAS PACKING THIS
SHE WAS PROBABLY CRYING
or loneliness,
Other people's
THANKS, REI-CHAN
I'LL BE OKAY NEXT TIME
kindness,
strength,
SFX: PACHI
Always too busy paying attention to myself.
BEING BRAVE AND BEING RECKLESS!!
THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN
Why I am always like this?
SFX: SUH

It's disgraceful...
It's really frustrating.
noticed it
at all.

MAKING MY HEART POUND OUT OF MY CHEST LIKE THAT.
YA BIG GALOOT.
.....
IT WAS SPECTAC-ULAR
HE DID.
YES.
YOU DID IT, KIRI-YAMAAA!!!
YOU DID IT!

I EXPECTED NOTHING LESS FROM YOUR DEAR FRIEND AND RIVAL, HARUNOBU SHIMA.
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING
EXCUSE ME.
IT REALLY WORKS, THIS STOMACH MEDICINE I GOT FROM SHIMADA 8-DAN!!
HMM.
WHAT KIND IS IT?
I GET STOMACH PAINS TOO.
PACKET STOMACH MEDICINE
I GUESS SHIMADA 8-DAN IS REALLY THE PERSON TO ASK ABOUT NEUROGENIC STOMACH PAINS.
THIS WORKS, HUH?
HE REALLY IS AN AUTHORITY ON STOMACH PAIN, ISN'T HE?
SFX JIII (STARE)
UM.
MIND IF I TAKE A LOOK AT THAT?
HM?
WHAT, KIRIYAMA, YOU HAVE STOMACH PAINS TOO?
WANT SOME? I'VE GOT PLENTY.
WELL DONE, NEWCOMER KING!
HM? ER, HANG ON, KIRIYAMA!! I'VE GOTTA SAY CONGRATULA-TIONS FIRST!!

KIRIYAMA?
ER,
HUH?
Suddenly, my mind was filled
with the image of her back,
curled up into a little ball,
from the night before last.
If I go by shinkansen, it's only one stop to Kyoto station.
Can I make it in time...?!
Lunch
Free Activity
(Shinkyougoku)
Lunch
Free Time
(Shinkyougoku)

OTHER-WISE...
I FEEL LIKE I'LL REGRET IT
NO,
I'LL GO.
I FEEL LIKE...
I'VE GOT TO GO.
FOR YEARS
AND YEARS TO COME,
EVEN AFTER I BECOME AN ADULT...
新京橋
TO SHINKYOU-GOKU!!

清水堂
紅梅
永興屋
DAMMIT
SHE'S NOT HERE, HUH
Yeah...
Running around haphazardly in a town I barely know anything about,
trying to find a middle schooler who doesn't have a cell phone,
purely on the hint that they had free time in Shinkyougoku...
WHAT AM I DOING?

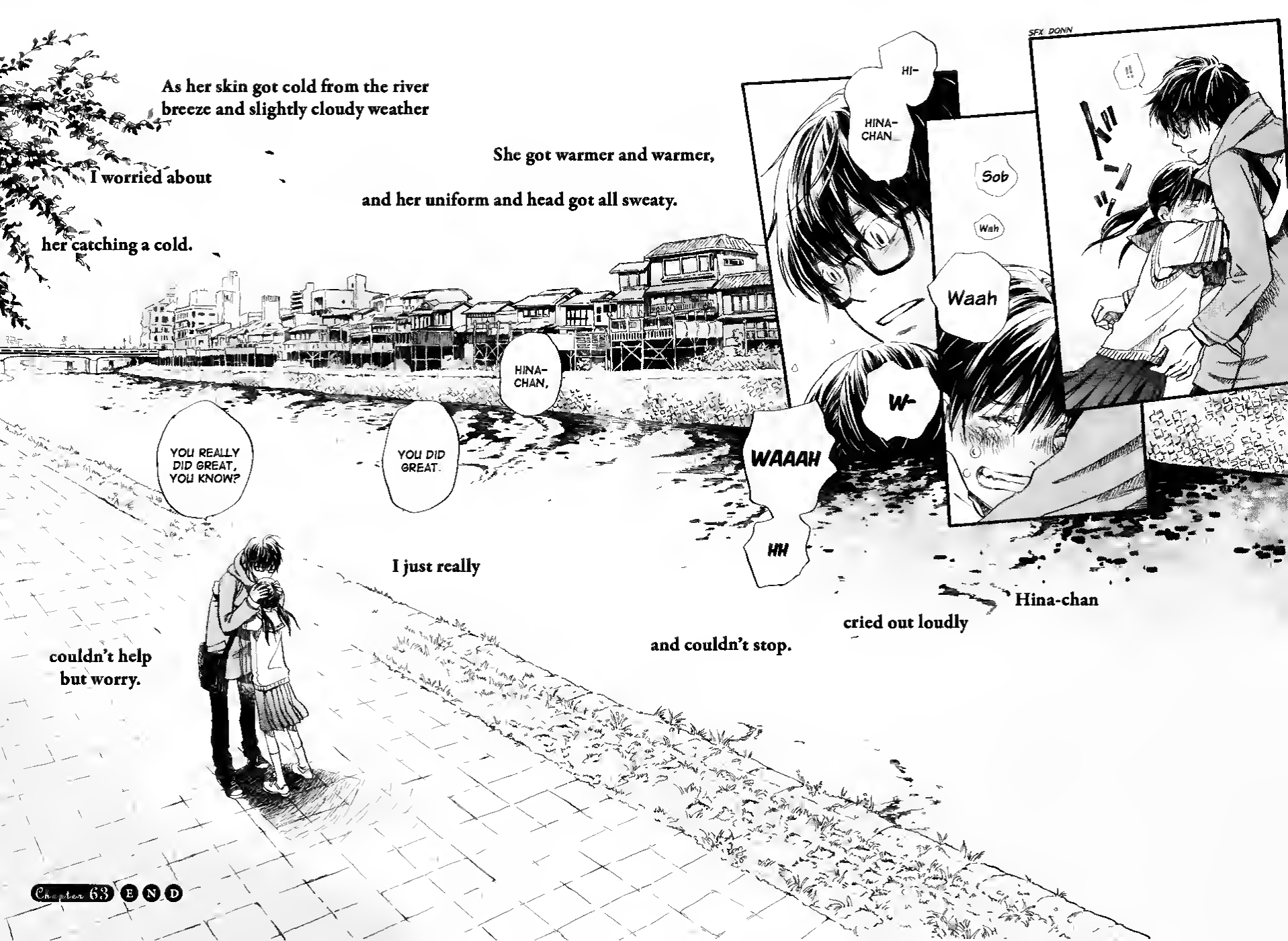
HUH? WHERE'S KIRIYAMA?
I DUNNO.
WHO CARES IF HE'S HERE OR NOT?
THIS IS FREE ACTIVITY.
WE'RE ALLOWED TO ACT FREELY, RIGHT?
WHAT NO WAY!
THAT'S SO FUNNY!!
ISN'T IT☆
Hahaha
Hahaha
KYAA
THAT'S HINA-CHAN'S MIDDLE SCHOOL UNIFORM...
Ahh, now I remember.
She's not *here*.
HAHAHA!
A person who's all alone
SHINKYOGOKU
can't be among
laughing voices like this.
There's no way she could.
HAHAHA!
KYA-HAHAHA!

Yeah,
that's right.
Whenever she
felt like crying...
SFX PAPAAAA

she would go off alone
to the river...

SFX: JAKI
SFX: PAAAN
SFX: ハーッ…
REI-CHAN?

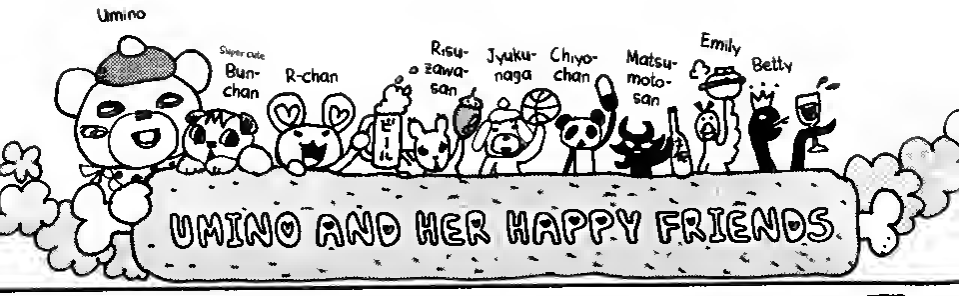
SFX: KAHH (BLUSHHH)
!!
UH,
UM...
WELL...
Seems to have regained his sanity.
HOW?!
WHY?!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
HUH?!
HOW?!
HUH?!
HUH?!
UH...
YOU WERE SAYING HOW YOUR STOMACH HURT, SO...
I WAS WONDERING HOW YOU WERE DOING...
SO, UH...
YEAH, I GOT THIS REALLY GOOD STOMACH MEDICINE FROM ONE OF MY SENPAI.
AND, AH!!

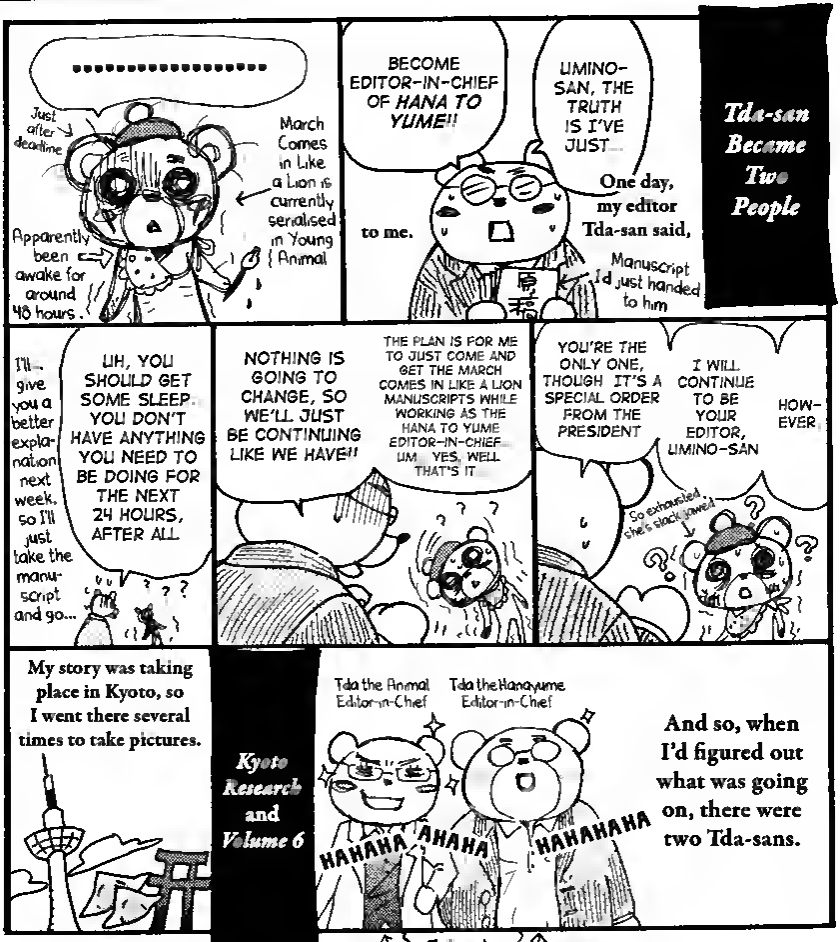

As her skin got cold from the river breeze and slightly cloudy weather
She got warmer and warmer,
I worried about
and her uniform and head got all sweaty.
her catching a cold.
HINA-CHAN,
YOU DID GREAT.
YOU REALLY DID GREAT, YOU KNOW?
I just really
couldn't help but worry.
HI-
HINA-CHAN
Sob
Wah
Waah
W-
WAAAH
HH
SFX: DONN
!!
Hina-chan
cried out loudly
and couldn't stop.
Chapter 63 END

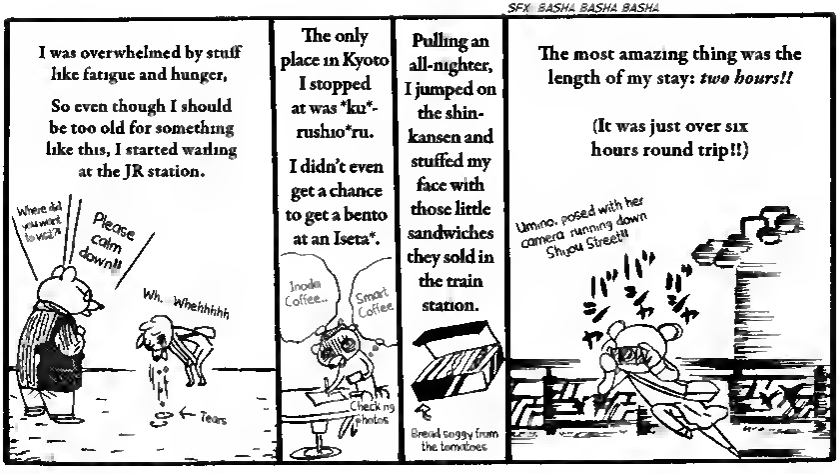
3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

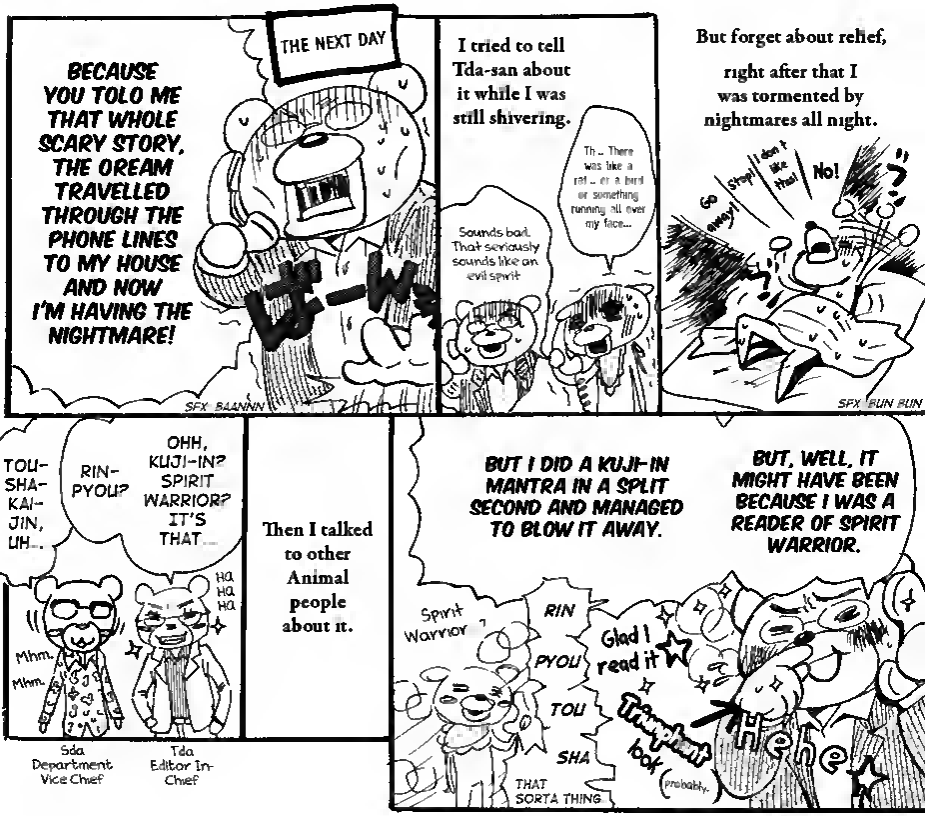
Chica Umino

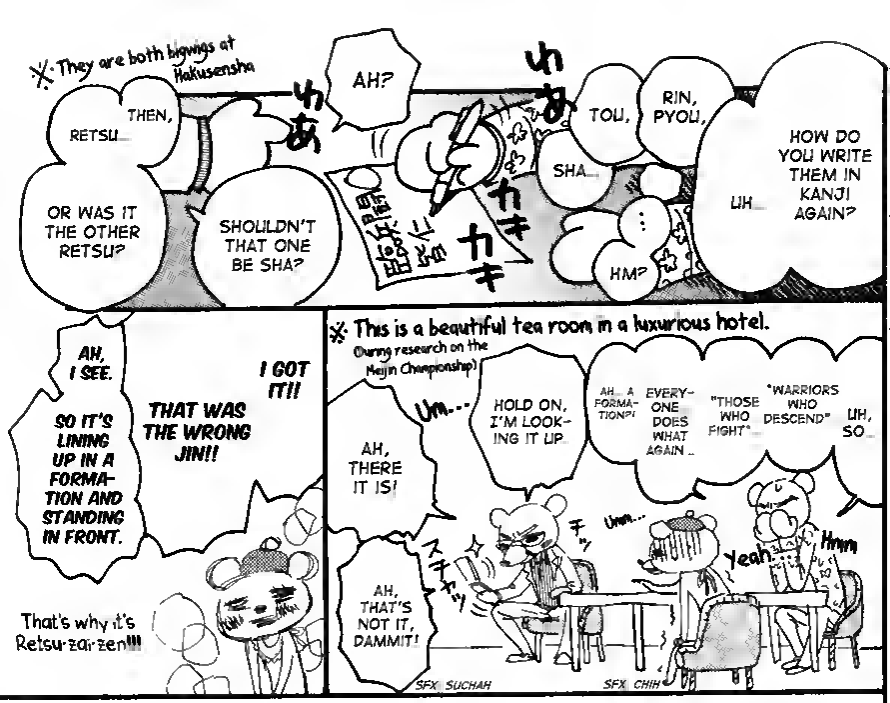

Umino
Super cute
Bun-chan
R-chan
Risu-zawa-san
Jyuku-naga
Chiyo-chan
Matsu-moto-san
Emily
Betty
UMINO AND HER HAPPY FRIENDS


Just after deadline
March Comes in Like a Lion is currently serialised in Young Animal
Apparently been awake for around 48 hours.
BECOME EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF HANA TO YUME!!
UMINO-SAN, THE TRUTH IS I'VE JUST...
to me.
Manuscript I'd just handed to him
Tda-san Became Two People
One day, my editor Tda-san said,
I'll... give you a better explanation next week, so I'll just take the manuscript and go...
UH, YOU SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP. YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING YOU NEED TO BE DOING FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS, AFTER ALL
NOTHING IS GOING TO CHANGE, SO WE'LL JUST BE CONTINUING LIKE WE HAVE!!
THE PLAN IS FOR ME TO JUST COME AND GET THE MARCH COMES IN LIKE A LION MANUSCRIPTS WHILE WORKING AS THE HANA TO YUME EDITOR-IN-CHIEF... UM... YES, WELL THAT'S IT
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE, THOUGH IT'S A SPECIAL ORDER FROM THE PRESIDENT
I WILL CONTINUE TO BE YOUR EDITOR, UMINO-SAN
HOW-EVER
So exhausted, she's slack-jawed.
My story was taking place in Kyoto, so I went there several times to take pictures.
Kyoto Research and Volume 6
Tda the Animal Editor-in-Chief
Tda the Hana-yume Editor-in-Chief
HAHAHA
AHAHA
HAHAHAHA
And so, when I'd figured out what was going on, there were two Tda-sans.
Friends
(※ Egghead ☆ Yakuza)

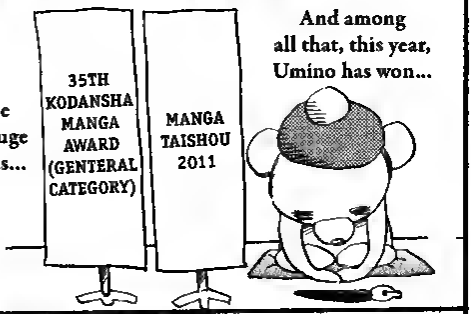

SFX: BASHA BASHA BASHA
I was overwhelmed by stuff like fatigue and hunger,
So even though I should be too old for something like this, I started wailing at the JR station.
Where did you want to visit?
Please calm down!!
Wh. Whehhhhh
Tears
The only place in Kyoto I stopped at was *ku*-rushio*ru.
I didn't even get a chance to get a bento at an Iseta*.
Inoda Coffee...
Smart Coffee
Checking Photos
Pulling an all-nighter, I jumped on the shin-kansen and stuffed my face with those little sandwiches they sold in the train station.
Bread soggy from the tomatoes
The most amazing thing was the length of my stay: two hours!!
(It was just over six hours round trip!!)
Umino, posed with her camera running down Shyou Street!!

This is the sort of thing going on every day, but I finally got all of my manuscripts in for volume 6...


THE NEXT DAY
BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME THAT WHOLE SCARY STORY, THE DREAM TRAVELLED THROUGH THE PHONE LINES TO MY HOUSE AND NOW I'M HAVING THE NIGHTMARE!
SFX: BAANNN
I tried to tell Tda-san about it while I was still shivering.
Th... There was like a rat... or a bird or something running all over my face...
Sounds bad. That seriously sounds like an evil spirit
But forget about relief, right after that I was tormented by nightmares all night.
No!
Stop!
I don't like that!
Go away!
SFX: RUN RUN
TOU-SHA-KAI-JIN, UH...
RIN-PYOU?
OHH, KUJI-IN? SPIRIT WARRIOR? IT'S THAT...
HA HA HA
Mhm. Mhm.
Sda Department Vice Chief
Tda Editor In-Chief
Then I talked to other Animal people about it.
BUT I DID A KUJI-IN MANTRA IN A SPLIT SECOND AND MANAGED TO BLOW IT AWAY.
BUT, WELL, IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BECAUSE I WAS A READER OF SPIRIT WARRIOR.
Spirit Warrior
RIN
PYOU
TOU
SHA
THAT SORTA THING
Glad I read it
Trumpet box (probably)
Hehe



This is all thanks to my editor Tda-san, everyone at Hakusensha's Young Animal editorial department, all my assistants who drew such wonderful backgrounds, everyone at the Toppan Printing Co. Ltd., Nawata-san who helped me with design, my shogi supervisor Senzaki-sensei, all of the staff at bookstores across the country... And, last but not least...


these two huge awards...
35TH KODANSHA MANGA AWARD (GENTERAL CATEGORY)
MANGA TAISHOU 2011
And among all that, this year, Umino has won...

I'll keep working my hardest, so I would be very blessed if you could keep following my work. I hope you enjoy what there is to come.

Sincerely, Umino.

SIGN: BOOKSTORE
I could not have done this without you.
all of the readers who have read Umino's manga.
Paying respects Thank you...
Lion
March Comes in Like a Lion

BE WITH YOU SCANS NOTES

PAGE 182

Spirit Warrior, (also known as *Peacock King*) is a manga from the 80s. In the story, "Kuji-in" is a 9-syllable Japanese Taoism/Buddhism mantra, used for exorcism and devil hunting. The full mantra translates to "May all those who preside over warriors be my vanguard" or "Warriors who descend, those who fight, everyone, line up in formation and take position in front".

The kanji of the mantra referenced in this chapter are as follows:

臨 (rin): descend
兵 (pyou): warriors
闘 (tou): fight
者 (sha): people
皆 (kai): everyone
陣 (jin): formation
列 (retsu): line-up
在 (zai): take position
前 (zen): in front